

I admit it. I'm a TurboPhreak Wannabe!

EXCELSIOR 44

A True C.D.O. Zine: Correspondance, Diplomacy, and Opinions

Wild things happening in FAURE(p17). Austria (Pierre Touchette) has NMRd with 17 centres but still can win next turn, and his ally, Italy (Claude

July 1992

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Gautron), tries a Rome to Liverpool convoy, foiled by the NMR. On p. 18, GREGORY is into the final phases with three players evenly sharing the board.

PRIME MOVER: Bruce McIntyre HEAVENLY SUPPORT: Nancy Hurrell
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One contentious part of Garret Schenck's \$400 funding request to the PDORA was a \$150 advertising budget. Criticism has been centred on Garret's advertisement in **Fantasy and Science Fiction** magazine. Perhaps this wasn't the best place, but there are many worse choices....

Some Possible Quotes From Ads For The Postal Diplomacy Hobby, If Tailored For Specific Large- Circulation Publications

(don't bother reading from bottom up—this isn't a top ten list...)

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE: "WWI. *Real* fighting.

Blow up armies. Sink fleets. It's for you!"

ELLERY QUEEN MAGAZINE: "...what will your enemy do? It's a total *mystery* every turn."

GAY MEN'S MAGAZINE: "The face-to-face version of Diplomacy has been called the *second* best thing to do with six other guys between Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast."

GUNS 'N AMMO: "A game of total violence, where each player tries to annihilate six others."

PSYCHOLOGY TODAY: "The game can be educational, with many personality types to deal with. Winning requires a good read of the neuroses of your opponents."

Directory

EXCELSIOR #44, by Bruce McIntyre, with a heaven of a lot of support from Nancy Hurrell, and continued thanks to subzinzists Fred Davis and Eric Brosius. If this issue reproduces well, the credit goes to Hafez Hamidi for his generosity with his laser printer, Bob Kwong at Budget Printing, for the usual excellent copying job, and *Microsoft Publisher 1.0*. The blame for this issue being one week late should of course be 100% with me.

Page	Contents
1	It sounded like a great topic, but even with the extra week I couldn't think of enough items for a top ten. I hope it still works.
2	Directory (what's in this issue) and Housekeeping (what games are going to be in future issues).
3	DipGab. This time there's next to nothing about Dip here. What's left is an editorial on Dan Quayle's attack on Murphy Brown, some complaints about polls, a sinister plan of action for an astrology program I've acquired, an apology to Robert Lesco, whose absence from these pages is my fault entirely for somehow screwing up his database address, a paragraph on potential problems I may have if I go TurboPhreaky, and a review of the new album from Spyro Gyra, <i>Three Wishes</i> .
6	Canadian Content. A tension-filled short story about chess, chess players, and murder...
10	Zine Register #20, a short review.
11	More Chaos. I never was able to get the Chaos program to give me something the desktop publishing program recognized, so I had to draw a bad facsimile. But the article is interesting on it's own, I hope.
14	Fred's Column #10 , by Fred C. Davis, Jr.
17-19	FAURE and GREGORY reside here. Garret liked the way the games turned up in the centre of XL#43 , and I tried to make that happen again but underestimated the length of the letter column.
20	Baseball questions from last time answered.
25	Most of the Post. I still can't believe there are sixteen pages of this, especially at tiny 8.5 point print, but there are. Contributing this time: Brent McKee, Pete Gaughan, Robert Lesco, Andy York, Kevin Brown, Rosie Roberts, Fred Davis, Jr., David Hood, Doug Kent, and Bob Acheson.

Starting on page 3 are the final nine baseball questions.

This issue costs \$1.40 to Canadians, \$1.49 to Americans, and \$1.00 US overseas. If July 6 is an American holiday (July 4 is a Saturday) I won't be able to get this mailed from the U.S., but the chances are not great of that happening anyhow.

Deadline for next issue is August 7.

Housekeeping

Games in **XL** are named after composers, and all are to be run on six-week deadlines. I prefer retreats conditional on moves (with Winter 1901 always separate and lenient but discretionary later separations), but a majority of the players may overrule. All that is required to sign up is a name and when the game fills I'll inform you. You'll need to subscribe and pay a returnable \$3 NMR fee, or you can simply have this taken from your existing subscription account until the game is over. The first NMR is forgiven, but it'll cost you another deposit to get back into the game if you NMR twice in a game.

IVES (Seismic Diplomacy)
(Charles Ives (1874-1954 was an American composer who was ahead of his time in using modern compositional techniques like polytonality and multiple rhythms.) I have rules for this 7 player map-changing variant if anyone wants a copy. Signed up: Grant Fraser, Randy Davis, Pete Gaughan—still need four.

KODALY (Regular Diplomacy)
(Zoltan Kodaly (1882-1967), pronounced CAW-dye, was a Hungarian composer and influential music educator.) I still have copies of the last megarun of **XL** houserules if anyone wants 'em. Signed up: Randy Davis, Gerry Paulson, Andrew York—four more needed.

JOPLIN (Gunboat—no press)
(Scott Joplin (1868-1917) was the black American composer who was King of Ragtime.) Gunboat is Diplomacy without negotiations—the players remain anonymous. Six more needed.

Standby list: B. Acheson, G. Argyle, C. Arsenault, M. Barno, R. Davis, C. Gautron, B. McKee, G. Paulson, P. Touchette, C. White, G. Wilson, and A. York. Stand-bys who get into a game do not pay for **XL** until their part in the game is over. I plan to apply for an orphan game here; please let me know if you'd be available as a potential replacement player.

DipGab

Hmm. Where to start? This seems like a juicy topic:

Since I sent out the last issue of **XL**, U.S. Vice President Quayle made an ass of himself by suggesting, in a speech on values and ethics, that the L.A. riots were partly due to the breakdown of American families. He went on to say that it doesn't help matters when Murphy Brown (the title role, played by Candice Bergen, in a popular sitcom) decides to have a child out of wedlock. The media wasted no time in broadcasting this damaging sound bite across the nation, and jokesters made a lot of extra money. Bergen did not comment, but an executive for the show suggested that Mr. Quayle make certain that Murphy be allowed to have an abortion if he had a problem with illegitimate children. David Letterman reminded Quayle ("and Mr. Vice President, listen up, I'm only gonna say this once") that Murphy Brown "is a *fictional character*." The following night he reported that Quayle's television privileges "have been revoked." Johnny Carson thanked Quayle for adding some spice to his monologues in his final week.

The Vice President, this time, probably deserves the flack he's getting—American voters, I think, are fed up with flagrant Republican pandering to Moral Majority positions, and even the excuse that "Dan don't write the speeches, he just reads 'em" doesn't hold water, since he appears not to be backing down, and anyway you don't make a speech without reading it first. But the ridicule is wrong. Quayle, the most notorious VP since Spiro Agnew, has a history of being looked upon as a boob, rightly or wrongly. In an election year, such a comment should not be dismissed with a guffaw when it is so easy to poke great holes in Quayle's argument without resorting to low mockery.

What the Murphy Brown comment, and Quayle's defense of it, revealed about Quayle was not that he is a man of high moral values, or that he thinks America should have higher values, but simply that Mr. Quayle, sadly, is intolerant and narrow-minded. I was banging on the computer keyboard while Nancy watched the episode where Murphy Brown became a single mother. Not having ever seen the show before, I didn't immediately realize that Murphy Brown was going to be a

single mother; the fact eventually dawned on me when none of the usual first-time-father jokes were broadcast into our living room. What I did learn—forget for a moment that this is a fictional character we're dealing with here—was that the character Murphy Brown is an intelligent, financially secure, sensitive journalist in her thirties, with a large circle of supportive friends and coworkers, who damn well ought to be able to make her own goddam reproductive choices without any moral indignation from some ass of a vice president with nothing better to do. When Quayle says that deadbeat dads and single parents are a huge social problem he is right. When he blames the L.A. riots on this problem only, he is missing the larger picture. But when he cites Murphy Brown as a bad role model because she chooses to raise a child without a father he is picking the worst supporting argument possible. He is saying "read my lips: no single mothers, case closed." That is moral intolerance.

The reason our society frowns on single-parent children is not because of what it does to the parent, but what it denies the child.

It's Your Call

9th Inning Questions

One more time, ten baseball questions based on the official rules, taken from the book **It's Your Call: Baseball's Oddest Plays**. You are directed to keep answers concise and assume that there is enough information in each question for a ruling to be made. Here's the first:

1. Jesus Vega at the plate. Two straight pitches on the outside corners, and you call them both strikes. Vega can't believe it. Vega steps out of the batter's box while he calls time and starts giving you the business in two or three languages. You listen to a little of the whining, but you soon get tired of it. When you tell Vega to get back in the box and hit, he refuses. You then tell the pitcher to pitch, and he bounces a pitch about a foot in front of the plate. Is this pitch strike three, or is the count now 1-2? It's your call.

(Next question is on page 5)

And in our inner cities (we have them in Canada too; I work in one) the child of a single parent is usually going to have a hell of a time as compared to the child of a two parent family. We need to do as much as we can to avoid the unwanted pregnancies and to prosecute the deadbeat dads that are the main cause of the problem, since many inner city single parent children will require society to be their breadwinner. It is the monetary drain on government that is a far larger concern than the question of whether the mother is/was married when the child was conceived. But Murphy Brown is irrelevant to all this—she clearly isn't going to get government assistance to support her child, nor will her child be neglected or unloved. The show makes a positive, responsible role model out of the character by showing that single parenting *can* work, given the right conditions. No teenager in south central L.A. is going to decide from that show that she can have a baby because Murphy Brown did. Perhaps the show may be incentive for some to make some effort to get their lives back together. But the morality argument Quayle makes is a narrow-minded gaffe that shows how out of touch with the vice president is.

I complain about this every election, so long time readers of this zine are going to be familiar with this opinion: when the presidential primaries and conventions are over and the real campaigning begins, are we going to have polls full of useless information that purport to tell us who's winning? In Canada the pollsters phone about a thousand voters and report the results as percentages of popular vote. Unfortunately, the election is not decided on popular vote, but on the winning of seats by parties. A better poll would have 3-6 phone calls to each constituency and report who was ahead. The scientific accuracy might not be as good for a single constituency based on 3 randomly selected voters, but the overall total wouldn't be far off.

In the U.S., the impending entrance of H. Ross Perot into the race, combined with his apparent popularity and no-problem funding, might well make it a three way race. If so, polls which try to predict the leader by popular vote alone will be completely useless. Most pundits are saying that the electoral vote leader may well finish third in popular vote in a close race. What we'll need to show trends and predict a winner is popular vote in each state. Somehow I doubt we'll get that. You

can believe (I don't) that polls interfere with elections, inducing lazy voters to try to be on the winning side, but if so, misleading polls must cause even more of this theoretically undesirable effect. Let's hope people begin to realize that popular vote polls are not everything, especially in the wake of the British election, where the polls were predicting defeat for the Conservative Party, which won an easy majority.

I have acquired a copy of an astrology program and I have a sinister idea. The program takes input in the form of birthdates (including longitude/latitude, and time of day) and outputs a full astrological chart, including the positions of the Moon and outer planets, and then consults a database of astrological lore to decide what sort of person the stars have decreed the person born at that time and place to be. As you might guess, I'm a skeptic of astrology (as well as biorhythms and other forms of fortune telling), but I did take the time to see how it operates, to the point of making charts for people from the old tables of planetary movements that were used before computers made the whole thing academic. (Somebody bought me a book once, figuring from the tables that I'd love the figuring—the figuring I didn't mind, it was the arbitrary characteristics astrology placed on people that irked me.)

Anyhow, here is what I propose. Any reader of this may send me their birthdate, including time (this is a must, don't forget to designate AM and PM) and place (if you know the latitude, longitude, and number of hours relative to Greenwich Standard, that would be great, but if not I'll estimate), and I shall send you four computerized astrological descriptions of yourself, one of which will be the one based on your data. The rest will be randomly selected dates. When you read these over and send in your guess as to which one is the correct one, I shall send you the real one, including the chart and planetary data, without comment (in other words, I won't gloat if you pick the wrong one). In the zine, I won't print any names or charts, I shall confine myself to mentioning the cumulative record of astrology, as represented by the program, which I do not expect to be significantly greater than a .250 batting average. Those of you who are astrology believers might be able to fool the computer by recognizing your own astrological data, such as Uranus in Aries, or concentration of water signs, or whatever, but overall it

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should be an interesting experiment. Send in some dates: wives, parents, girlfriends, siblings, whoever!

An odd piece of knowledge has come my way as a result of Robert Lesco's review of **XL** in the latest issue of **The Zine Register** (about which more later). This gives me the opportunity to publicly apologize for allowing grem-lins to get to my database and change his address, resulting in him not getting the last three issues (I kept getting them back and assumed he'd moved, but couldn't find a new address on any list of COAs I saw. Only the city was changed, the rest was intact, which tells you that Canada Post is more reliant on non-coded address information than on the postal code, which should have gotten the zine to the correct city block, from where the error would be obvious.) and thinking I was long gone. Anyhow, Robert said in his review and in his letter to me, that his wife enjoys **XL** as much as he does. This, combined with many of the other reviews, especially Garret's kind admission that he took time out of the massive typing job for **ZR** #20 to read **XL** cover to cover, certainly gives me a lot of encouragement to hold up my end of the deal! But if **XL** is read by more than the person who's paying for it in sub or trade, I wonder why I seldom hear from these people. If you're reading someone else's copy and would like to respond, let me assure you that you are most welcome. Really!

As I write this, there are less than three weeks left until deadline, and I have nothing on file except a few sample requests and one letter requesting houserules. I guess I have no right to expect quick responses from people after the slow pace of **XL** in the past year; if I were an **XL** subscriber I'd expect a lengthy delay after two issues only six weeks apart. So I don't blame y'all for not getting in responses yet, but it will create a dilemma for me if there should be another ten days or so without a significant bulge in my "next issue" folder. Should I hold over the baseball questions? The letter column questions? How do I feel about a sudden drop in the page count? (My wallet says yes but my heart says no...) Should I try to make up the difference myself—there are a number of lengthy Leacock pieces I'd love to share with you, and given time I could write reams

of stuff on a number of subjects. I suspect that I may have to. This zine has come in for a lot of criticism lately in terms of scheduling. If I wait a week and try to pass it off as waiting for mail, would the critics believe me? I doubt it...

This issue is being powered by Spyro Gyra's new album (do we still call them albums now that vinyl is out and CD and cassettes are in?), *Three Wishes*, which appears after the group, which consists of various musicians supporting the Spyro Gyra core of Jay Beckenstein (saxes), Tom Schuman (keyboards), and Tom Schuman (mallets), took a year off while giving their fans a pair of new tracks on a collection of their favorites from their first dozen albums of instrumental jazz-rock. This latest is interesting in that they appear to be staying away from the synthesized instruments in favour of the acoustic ones—although the liner notes are not real clear: maybe synths are just getting better and better and I can't hear the difference. Whether it's synthed or acoustic, a lot of the tracks have piano tracks, which sounds better to me than synths. Schuman's mallet solos continue to seem physically impossible, and Beckenstein's sax technique is clean and original without being overpowering: his forte is trills, which he uses in all kinds of ways—I've even heard him trill on two alternate fingerings of the same note for a flutter-tonguing effect. I've said it before—I cannot type when song lyrics are shooting out nearby speakers, so it's either symphonies or jazz that keeps me going. Maybe I should try typing to rap music—NOT.

[END]

It's Your Call continued (previous question: page 3)

2. You're working a two-man crew. With the bases loaded, Handsome Ransom Jackson doubles to right centre field. All three runners score and Jackson tries for third on the throw home. You're the base umpire and you call Jackson out on the subsequent throw to third. The home plate umpire is calling Jackson safe at third at the same time. How do you resolve this mess?

(Next question is on page 7)

Canadian Content

[I always try to follow along when I read a story such as this one in which a chess game takes place and the author gives the moves. Usually by doing so I miss a lot of more important things that are happening. So I'll tell you right away that there is no need to get your board out and keep track of the moves here. (You won't be able to, as Leacock deliberately makes his second move, N-B3, ambiguous.) And if you don't play chess you won't be at any disadvantage.]

Pawn to King's Four by Stephen Leacock

(There is no readier escape from the ills of life than in a game of chess.

—Francis Bacon, and Eggs)

"Pawn to King's Four," I said as I sat down to the chess table.

"Pawn to King's Four, eh?" said Letherby, squaring himself comfortably to the old oak table, his elbows on its wide margin, his attitude that of the veteran player. "Pawn to King's Four," he repeated. "Aha, let's see!"

It's the first and oldest move in chess, but from the way Letherby said it you'd think it was as new as yesterday... Chess players are like that... "Pawn to King's Four," he repeated. "You don't mind if I take a bit of a think over it?"

"No, no," I said, "not at all. Play as slowly as you like. I want to get a good look round this wonderful room."

It was the first time I had ever been in the Long Room of the Chess Club—and I sat entranced with the charm and silence of the long wainscoted room—its soft light, the blue tobacco smoke rising to the ceiling—the open grate fires burning—the spaced out tables, the players with bent heads, unheeding our entry and our presence... all silent except here and there a little murmur of conversation, that rose only to hush again.

"Pawn to King's Four"—repeated Letherby—"let me see!"

It was, I say, my first visit to the Chess Club; indeed I had never known where it was except that it was somewhere down town, right in the heart of the city, among the big buildings. Nor did I know Letherby himself very well, though I had always understood he was a chess player. He looked like one. He had the long, still face, the unmoving eyes, the leathery, indoor complexion that marks the habitual chess player anywhere.

So, quite naturally, when Letherby heard that I played chess he invited me to come round some night to the Chess Club..."I didn't know you played," he said. "You don't look like a chess player—I beg your pardon, I didn't mean to be rude."

So there we were at the table. The Chess Club, as I found, was right down town, right beside the New Commercial Hotel; in fact, we met by agreement in the rotunda of the hotel... a strange contrast—the noise, the lights, the racket of the big rotunda, the crowding people, the call of the bellboys—and this unknown haven of peace and silence, somewhere just close above and beside it.

I have little sense of location and direction so I can't say just how you get to the Club—up a few floors in the elevator and along a corridor (I think you must pass out of the building here) and then up a queer little flight of stairs, up another little stairway and with that all at once you come through a little door, a sort of end-corner door in the room and there you are in the Long Room...

"Pawn to King's Four," said Letherby, decided at last, moving the piece forward..."I thought for a moment of opening on the Queen's side, but I guess not."

All chess players think of opening on the Queen's side, but never do. Life ends too soon.

"Knight to Bishop's Three," I said.

"Knight to Bishop's Three, aha!" exclaimed Letherby, "oho!" and went into a profound study... It's the second oldest move in chess; it was old three thousand years ago in Persepolis... but to the real chess player it still has all the wings of the morning.

So I could look round again, still fascinated with the room.

"It's a beautiful room, Letherby," I said.

"It is," he answered, his eyes on the board, "yes... yes... It's really part of the old Roslyn house that they knocked down to make the New Commercial... It was made of a corridor and a string of bedrooms turned into one big room. That's where it got the old wainscoting and those old-fashioned grate fires."

I had noticed them, of course, at once—the old-fashioned grates, built flat into the wall, the coal bulging and glowing behind bars, with black marble at the side and black marble for the mantle above... There were three of them, one at the side, just near us, one down the room and one across the end... But from none of them came noise or crackle—just a steady

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warm glow. Beside the old-fashioned grate stood the long tongs, and the old-fashioned poker with the heavy square head that went with it.

"Pawn to Queen's Third," said Letherby.

Nor in all the room was there a single touch of equipment that was less than of fifty years ago, a memory of a half century...Even the swinging doors, panelled with Russian leather, the main entrance on the right hand at the furthest end, swung soundlessly, on their hinges as each noiseless member entered with a murmured greeting.

"Your move," said Letherby. "Bishop to Bishop's Four? Right."...Most attractive of all, perhaps, was a little railed-in place at the side near the fire place, all done in old oak...something between a bar and a confessional, with coffee over low blue flames, and immaculate glasses on shelves...lemons in a bag...Round it moved a waiter, in a dinner jacket, the quietest, most unobtrusive waiter one ever saw...coffee to this table...cigars to that...silent work with lemons behind the rails...a waiter who seemed to know what the members wanted without their asking...This must have been so, for he came over to our table presently and set down long glasses of Madeira—so old, so brown, so aromatic that there seemed to go up from it with the smoke clouds, a vision of the sunny vineyards beside Fuchal...Such at least were the fancies that my mind began to weave around this enchanted place...And the waiter, too, I felt there must be some strange romance about him; no one could have a face so mild, yet with the stamp of tragedy upon it...

I must say—in fact, I said to Letherby—I felt I'd like to join the club, if I could. He said, oh, yes, they took in new members. One came in only three years ago.

"Queen's Knight to Bishop's Third," said Letherby with a deep sigh. I knew he had been thinking of something that he daredn't risk. All chess is one long regret.

We played on like that for—it must have been half an hour—anyway we played four moves each. To me, of course, the peace and quiet of the room was treat enough...but to Letherby, as I could see, the thing was not a sensation of peace but a growing excitement, nothing still or quiet about it; a rush, struggle—he knew that I meant to strike in on the King's side. Fool! he was thinking, that he hadn't ad-

vanced the Queen's Pawn another square...he had blocked his Bishop and couldn't Castle...you know, if you are a chess player, the desperate feeling that comes with a blocked Bishop...Look down any chess room for a man who's hands are clenched and you'll know that he can't Castle.

So it was not still life for Letherby, and for me, perhaps after awhile I began to feel that it was perhaps just a little too still...The players moved so little...they spoke so seldom, and so low...their heads so gray under the light...especially, I noticed, a little group at tables in the right-hand corner.

"They don't seem to talk much there," I said.

"No," Letherby answered without even turning his head, "they're blind. Pawn to Queen's Four."

Blind! Why, of course! Why not? Blind people, I realized, play chess as easily as any other people when they use little pegged boards for it...Now that I looked I could see—the aged fingers lingering and rambling on the little pegs.

"You take the Pawn?" said Letherby.

"Yes," I said and went on thinking about the blind people...and how quiet they all were...I began to recollect a play that was once in New York—people on a steamer wasn't it? People standing at a bar...and you realized presently that they were all dead...It was a silly idea, but somehow the Long Room began to seem like that...at intervals I could even hear the ticking of the clock on the mantel.

I was glad when the waiter came with a second glass of Madeira. It warmed one up...

"That man seems a wonderful waiter," I said.

It's Your Call continued

(previous question: page 5)

3. In a tie game, Tobacco Chewin' Johnny Lanning has run the count full on the leadoff batter in the ninth inning. As Lanning begins to make his payoff pitch to the plate the ball slips out of his hand and dribbles about fifteen feet toward home plate. Is this ball four and do you give the batter a base on balls or call this no pitch and give Lanning another chance? It's your call.

(Next question is on page 4)

"Fred?" said Letherby. "Oh yes, he certainly is...He looks after everything—he's devoted to the club."

"Been here long?"

"Bishop to Bishop's Four," said Letherby...He didn't speak for a little while. Then he said, "Why practically all his life—except, poor fellow, he had a kind of tragic experience. He put in ten years in jail."

"For what?" I asked, horrified.

"For murder," said Letherby.

"For murder?"

"Yes," repeated Letherby, shaking his head, "Poor fellow, murder...some sudden, strange impulse that seized him...I shouldn't say jail. He was in the Criminal Lunatic Asylum. Your Move."

"Criminal Asylum!" I said. "What did he do?"

"Killed a man; in a sudden rage...struck him over the head with a poker."

"Good Lord!" I exclaimed. "When was that? In this city?"

"Here at the club," said Letherby, "in this room."

"What?" I gasped. "He killed one of the members?"

"Oh, no!" Letherby said reassuringly. "Not a member. The man was a guest. Fred didn't know him...just an insane impulse...As soon as they let him out, the faithful fellow came right back here. That was last year. Your move."

We played on. I didn't feel so easy...It must have been several moves after that that I saw Fred take the poker and stick its head into the coals and leave it there. I watched it gradually turning red. I must say I didn't like it.

"Did you see that?" I said. "Did you see Fred stick the poker in the coals?"

"He does it every night," said Letherby, "at ten; that means it must be ten o'clock...You can't move that, you're in check."

"What's it for?" I asked.

"I take your Knight," Letherby said. Then there was a long pause—Letherby kept his head bent over the board. Presently he murmured, "Mulled beer," and then looked up and explained. "This is an old-fashioned place—some of the members like mulled beer—you dip the hot poker in the tankard. Fred gets it ready at ten—your move."

I must say it was a relief...I was able to turn to the game again and enjoy the place...or I would have done so except for a sort of com-

motion that there was presently at the end of the room. Somebody seemed to have fallen down...others were trying to pick him up...Fred hurried to them...

Letherby turned half round in his seat.

"It's all right," he said. "It's only poor old Colonel McGann. He gets these fits...but Fred will look after him; he has a room in the building. Fred's devoted to him; he got Fred out of the Criminal Asylum. But for him Fred wouldn't be here tonight. Queen's Rook to Bishop's Square."

I was not sure just how grateful I felt to Colonel McGann...

A few moves after that another little incident bothered me, or perhaps it was just that my nerves were getting a little affected...one fancied things...and the infernal room, at once after the little disturbance, settled down to the same terrible quiet...it felt like eternity...

Anyway—there came in through the swinging doors a different kind of man, brisk alert, and with steel blue eyes and a firm mouth...He stood looking up and down the room, as if looking for some one.

"Who is he?" I asked.

"Why that's Dr. Allard."

"What?" I said. "The alienist?"

"Yes, he's the head of the Criminal Lunatic Asylum...He's a member here; comes in every night; in fact, he goes back and forward between this and the Asylum. He says he's making comparative studies. Check."

The alienist caught sight of Letherby and came to our table. Letherby introduced me. Dr. Allard looked me hard and straight in the eye; he paused before he spoke. "Your first visit here?" he said.

"Yes..." I murmured, "that is, yes."

"I hope it won't be the last," he said. Now what did he mean by that?

Then he turned to Letherby.

"Fred came over to see me today," he said. "Came of his own volition...I'm not quite sure...We may not have been quite wise." The doctor seemed thinking..."However, no doubt he's all right for awhile apart from sudden shock...just keep an eye...But what I really came to ask is, has Joel Linton been in tonight?"

"No..."

"I hope he doesn't come. He'd better not...If he does, get someone to telephone to me." And with that the doctor was gone.

"Joel Linton," I said, "Why he's arrested."

"Not yet...they're looking for him. You're

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in check."

"I beg your pardon," I said. Of course I'd read—everybody had—about the embezzlement. But I'd no idea that a man like Joel Linton could be a member of the Chess Club—I always thought, I mean people said, that he was the sort of desperado type.

"He's a member?" I said, my hand on the pieces.

"You can't move that, you're still in check. Yes, he's a member though he likes mostly to stand and watch. Comes every night. Somebody said he was coming here tonight just the same. He says he's not going to be taken alive. He comes round half past ten. It's about his time...that looks like mate in two moves."

My hands shook on the pieces. I felt that I was done with the Chess Club...Anyway I like to get home early...so I was just starting to say...that I'd abandon the game, when what happened happened so quickly that I'd no more choice about it.

"That's Joel Linton now," said Letherby, and in he came through the swing doors, a hard-looking man, but mightily determined...He hung his overcoat on a peg, and as he did so, I was sure I saw something bulging in his coat pocket—eh? He nodded casually about the room. And then started moving among the tables, edging his way toward ours.

"I guess, if you don't mind," I began...But that is as far as I got. That was when the police came in, two constables and an inspector.

I saw Linton dive his hand towards his pocket.

"Stand where you are, Linton," the inspector called...Then right at that moment I saw the waiter, Fred, seize the hand-grip of the poker...

"Don't move, Linton," called the inspector; he never saw Fred moving toward him...

Linton didn't move. But I did. I made a quick back bolt for the little door behind me...down the little stairway...and down the other little staircase, and along the corridor and back into the brightly lighted hotel rotunda, just the same as when I left it—noise and light and bellboys, and girls at the newsstand selling tobacco and evening papers...just the same, but oh, how different! For peace of mind, for the joy of life—give me a rotunda, and make it as noisy as ever you like.

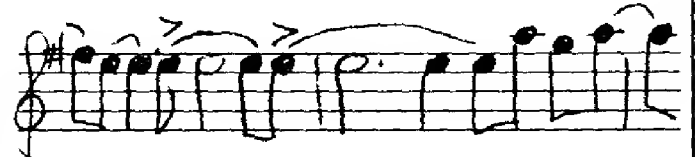
I read all about it next morning in the newspapers. Things always sound so different in the newspaper, beside a coffee pot and a boiled egg. Tumults, murders, floods—all smoothed out. So was this. *Arrest Made Quietly at Chess Club, it said. Linton Offers No Resistance...Members Continue Game Undisturbed.* Yes, they would, the damned old gravestones...Of Fred it said nothing.

A few days later I happened to meet Letherby. "Your application is all right," he said. "They're going to hurry it through. You'll get in next year..."

But I've sent in a resignation in advance; I'm joining the Badminton Club and I want to see if I can't get into the Boy Scouts or be a Girl Guide.

[from *Happy Stories, Just To Laugh At* (1943)]

END



It's Your Call continued

(previous question: page 7)

4. Bases are loaded with Peninsula Pilots and Calvin "Nuke" Laloosh lets go with a wild pitch. The Pilots begin to move up a base and when Durham Bulls catcher Crash Davis gets back to the screen to retrieve the ball he finds it lodged in the chain-link fence. Davis can't budge the ball from the screen and all three Peninsula runners circle the bases. Do you allow all the runners to score, or do you call a dead ball and let the runners advance only one base each? It's your call.

(Next question is on page 12)

Zine Register #20

Garret Schenck has sent out another issue of **The Zine Register**, weighing in at 76 laser-printed pages, chock full of data and opinions on most of the zines being produced in North America today. Surprisingly, there seems to be nothing whatsoever in this issue on the **ZR** vs **PDORA** feud. The guest reviewers seem to be kinder this time. Garret's own comments are generally more positive in his guaranteed last word on every zine. And as always, the **ZR** is an excellent compendium of current hobby data that won't stray too far from my workspace.

The downside of this issue is that Garret has nominated two publishers, Brad Wilson and Cal White, to be the whipping posts in many of his comments. I'm not sure why this happened, but it ain't real pretty. Garret calls Brad "truly the *anus* of the hobby," and slams his attempt to improve his zine's look as "a lame attempt to curry favour with the TurboPhreak faction." He rips Cal for his confusing stance on the TurboPhreakdom issue, in asides during his pieces on (I'll use abbreviations here) **TAP**, **CCC**, **XL**, **HoO**, **HW**, **MP**, **RW**, and **RbM**, as well as Brad and Cal's own zines, **Vertigo** and **Northern Flame**. It all gets a bit tiresome. I don't agree with all this TurboPhreak Phringe criticism coming from Toronto and Philadelphia lately, but I don't think the Zine Register is the place to feud, either. On the other hand, Cal apparently didn't send a publishers info sheet to Garret, and Brad's description of **Vertigo** was designed to make Garret look bad.

For the "Garret must go" faction, (to which I neither belong nor approve) there is some good news: Garret is going to pass the **ZR** editorship to someone else after issue #21. Also, Garret has opened up a Delisted Zines section, for publishers who'd rather not participate. It'd be sad to see this list (currently only two zines are on it, without even so much as an address) grow to include some mainstream zines, but this might happen—I would consider it if I were Brad or Cal. If I were Garret I might consider this and allow people to request that their zine data be printed without comment from any reviewers—at least this way we'd have data for them.

I sure would like to see the end of this idiotic talk about how TurboPhreakdom is *bad*. I don't see any problem with pointing out that a zine is running games slowly, or appearing infrequently, or makes GMing errors, or can't

possibly be still alive after all this time. But Cal will probably tell me that that isn't what TurboPhreakishness is. In fact, I suspect the best argument against the anti-TPP squad is Cal's waffling before coming up with a definition, when asked to by Mike Lowery in **NF#36**. Eventually, Cal decided that TurboPhreakism was "*undue* concern for perfect adjudication, timely publishing, and presentational style of game results, leading to a (sometimes discourteous) disregard of the non-professional aspects of the Hobby." What are the non-professional aspects of the hobby? What are the professional aspects? Who decides what constitutes "*undue concern*"? This is not so much a definition as a set of guidelines, and many of Garret's comments sarcastically point out that a zine which seems to fit the label in fact doesn't, because Cal says so. I think that Garret is correct to point this out, but the sarcasm went a bit too far. If you can't define TurboPhreakdom, Cal—and I agree with you that it's nearly impossible to pin down, like "the Canadian hobby"—stop using the term itself to criticize. Just point out what you think is wrong, in specific examples, and abandon this silly attempt to put all the stuff under a single umbrella: it weakens your argument.

I thought the reviews of **XL** were fair, and even quite complimentary. I also got some nice reviews from Jack McHugh and Doug Kent in a recent issue of **Your Zine of Zines**, which was awfully nice. Garret-bashers may claim that I am soft in **ZR** criticism this time only because **XL** was treated better. Maybe

so, but I think that overall, Garret's comments, and the guest reviewers comments, are easier to digest this time than last. That is a massive improvement. Against this we have the nastiness toward Cal and Brad, which together covers about two pages out of 76. Given time, I think we'd have had ourselves a valued hobby service, in regularity (where Garret's immense workload is beyond question) and quality. Unfortunately, this won't happen, as Garret will step down after next issue.

Now let me go on to something else.

In his comments on Doug Kent's new zine, **Painful Rectal Itch**, Garret mentioned that this lettercolumn-only zine was likely to make him the prime target for criticism. He says that **PRI**'s publication likely "marks the 'official' acknowledgment of a second, farcical, 'Great Feud,' a blood lust that will only be

More Chaos

In this article I'm going to focus on what is called the Logistic Hump Attractor. There are no complications like imaginary numbers as we saw in the discussion of the Mandelbrot Set two issues ago. In fact, the math is so easy you can do it on a calculator.

The real-world situation that the LHA is supposed to model is population growth in a confined area. There are only three variables to the formula. The t-variable represents blips of time: years, seconds, months, however often you want to measure. The x-variable represents the population count. The k-variable is a constant which is chosen by the experimenter to make the equation fit the model. The initial formula is as follows:

$$x_{t+1} = kx_t$$

This formula produces a series of x's which grow to infinity as long as k is positive. This is the way population growth worked under the Malthusian formula. However, it's not hard to see that there must be some limit to population growth. Logically, you'd expect there to be some critical mass at which the population would decline once reached. This turns out to be true, and twentieth-century biologists settled upon a revised formula after experimenting with all kinds of life cycles. This was the revised version:

$$x_{t+1} = kx_t(1-x_t)$$

The definition of the x-variable in this revised formula is changed from a simple population count to a percentage of the theoretical maximum population. This means that the

successive x's are all between 0 and 1 (0 and 100%). The k-term is limited to values between 0 and 4 so that the x's cannot escape these bounds. The inclusion of the term (1-x) in the formula works as a natural population control, ensuring that the population rises when low and falls when high.

A few terms for you now, in case you want to look elsewhere for information in this area. An equation which tracks the movement of a point on a line, plane, or 3-D space, such as the one above, is called a *dynamical system*, and taking the answer and plugging it into the formula to get a series of answers is called *iteration*. The iterative process is sometimes referred to as a *feedback loop*. We might, for example, track the movement of the seven of diamonds through consecutive identical shuffles of the deck. This would be a dynamical system, since the "equation" would consist of a map governing the new position of the deck based on the old one: card #1 moves to position #13, card #2 moves to position #25, etc. Many simple dynamical systems are *periodic*, meaning they return to their original state and retrace their motions. The card shuffling system is periodic, as long as the formula holds and the shuffling keeps putting card #1 in position #13, etc. Most humans couldn't ever duplicate a shuffle, which is why they are useful. A perfect riffle shuffle repeated eight times returns a 52-card deck to its original order.

Back to the formula.

$$x_{t+1} = kx_t(1-x_t)$$

With our population formula prohibiting any increase to infinity, there are three things that

Zine Register #20 continued

sated when certain hobbyists have been driven from the fold." I hope this is wild overstatement, but one gets the feeling that the Schenck/Kent rivalry is about to boil over. I hope there are enough of us around who went through the last "Great Feud" to spot the clear warning signals and squelch any new one before it begins. Criticism, even tough, sarcastic commentary is fine. But let's not let it get totally out of hand. I've seen enough feuding in this hobby in eight years to not want to see any more.

[Late note: The second issue of **Painful Rectal Itch** popped into my mailbox, and the first item of business was changing the zines name, to **Foolhardy**. I was struck by the concern that this Kent vs Schenck rivalry will

heat up into a new feud. Not people taking one side or the other; people taking time to ask the principals on both sides that they keep it to what is at the moment an entertaining rivalry. I think that as long as the majority of us keep our cool and refuse to be bullied into making judgments on "who did it" as opposed to the impartial "what was done," we'll be OK. I think **Foolhardy** #2 is not currently a threat to hobby peace. But if the rivalry progresses from what it is now to the time-honoured feuding tradition of choosing up sides, especially if one side does something incredibly stupid to start this tragic snowball rolling, then we're back where we were eight years ago.]

END

might happen:

First, for lower values of k , the population dies out. It doesn't matter what the initial value of x is. If the k term is too low, the population will get lower with every iteration. Let's take $k=0.5$ and an initial value of 0.5 for x . Here's what we get:

x-number	value
1	0.5
2	0.125
3	0.0546875
4	0.0258484

...and every successive term will be smaller than the one before it. Changing the initial value of x doesn't change a hell of a lot, it hardly even postpones the inevitable.

At $k=1$ the picture changes. The series of x -values seeks out a particular equilibrium value, and stays there. This holds true for all values of k up to 3, where the x -values approach two-thirds and stay there. In chaos theory the value that the equation eventually reaches is called an *attractor*, as though this value attracts the point to it like a magnet. The attractor for lower values of k is zero, and the attractor for values between 1 and 3 is somewhere between zero and two-thirds.

At $k=3.1$ this is what happens:

x-number	value
1	0.5
2	0.775
3	0.5405625
4	0.7698995
5	0.5491782

...and, eventually:

49	0.5580141
50	0.7645665
51	0.5580141

Bifurcation! (This, you'll recall from the last article, is the term for a flip-flop between one value and another. 0.5580141 "points" to

0.7645665 and vice versa. Mathematical types call this a *period of two*.) And, when we move to $k=3.5$, this is what comes out:

x-number	value
1	0.5
2	0.875
3	0.3828125
4	0.8269348

Bifurcation? Not quite:

13	0.5008842
14	0.8749973
15	0.3828197
16	0.8269407
17	0.5008842

...and to seven decimal places this period of four holds forever. $k=3.4$ is a simple bifurcation, but by $k=3.5$ the period has doubled to four. After that, chaos! At 3.7 up there is no discernible pattern to the x -series, at least, not as you read it.

So, let's graph it.

What this graph shows is the relationship between the value of k , from 0 to 4 along the horizontal axis, and their attractors, the value of the first 40 or so iterations after a period of 5,000 iterations to settle down, from 0 to 1, on the vertical axis. At the left you can see that the attractor is zero for lower values of k . Then the attractor rises to the first bifurcation point just past $k=3$. After that there is a series of period doublings, to four, then to eight, coming increasingly quickly until the whole thing dissolves into non-periodic chaos. Within this chaos there are regions of apparent order, including some odd non-binary periods of three and six, but overall the region is quite mysterious. Magnifications of the "order within chaos" regions reveals the usual self-similarity common to most chaotic systems.

[Late note: I'm having trouble getting the Chaos program to interact with Windows 3.1.

I suspect the problem is with the .GIF format produced by the Chaos program, or it may be that the shareware program I use to convert .GIF files to printable files in .BMP or .CGM format is not working right with Windows 3.1. So what you will see is a drawing of the graph, which is not very accurate and has the chaotic regions replaced with a grayscale color blend. I didn't even try to get the regions of order within the chaos; you'll just have to take my word for it, they exist.]

If you find the exact k -points where the period doublings occur, you'll see that the length of the region of bifurcation is about 4.7 times the length of the region that has a

It's Your Call continued

(previous question: page 9)

5. Bump Bailey is playing centre field for the New York Knights. With two outs and the bases loaded he decides to make a hotdog catch in the outfield on a routine fly ball. Bailey tips his hat to the crowd and then proceeds to use his cap to catch the ball. Is this legal? If not, what is the call? It's your call.

(Next question is on page 14)

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period of four, which in turn is about 4.7 times the length of the region that has a period of eight, and so on. This constant (to be more precise, 4.6692016090+, and no, it has no relation to π , e , Φ , or any other well-known irrational constant...) is known as Feigenbaum's Number, after the American physicist Mitchell Feigenbaum, who discovered it in 1975. It bears some resemblance to a property I discovered in high school with my first calculator:

$$1/998 = 0.001\ 002\ 004\ 008\ 016\ 032\ +$$

$$1/997 = 0.001\ 003\ 009\ 027\ 081\ 243\ +$$

You can see that each group of three digits follows a rule, but it is also apparent that this rule would not help you to calculate digit number 45,365, since by that time the doublings or triplings would overflow in preceding groups. In the same way, our equation's period doublings, each about 4.7 times as short as the last, quickly become so brief as to go out of control. To put it another way, once you have the length of the period of bifurcation, you can use the constant to figure the exact period at any point, but the numbers quickly zoom off to the infinite.

Feigenbaum's Constant became immensely important in chaos theory when other equa-

tions were discovered to have similar period doublings. For example, this equation:

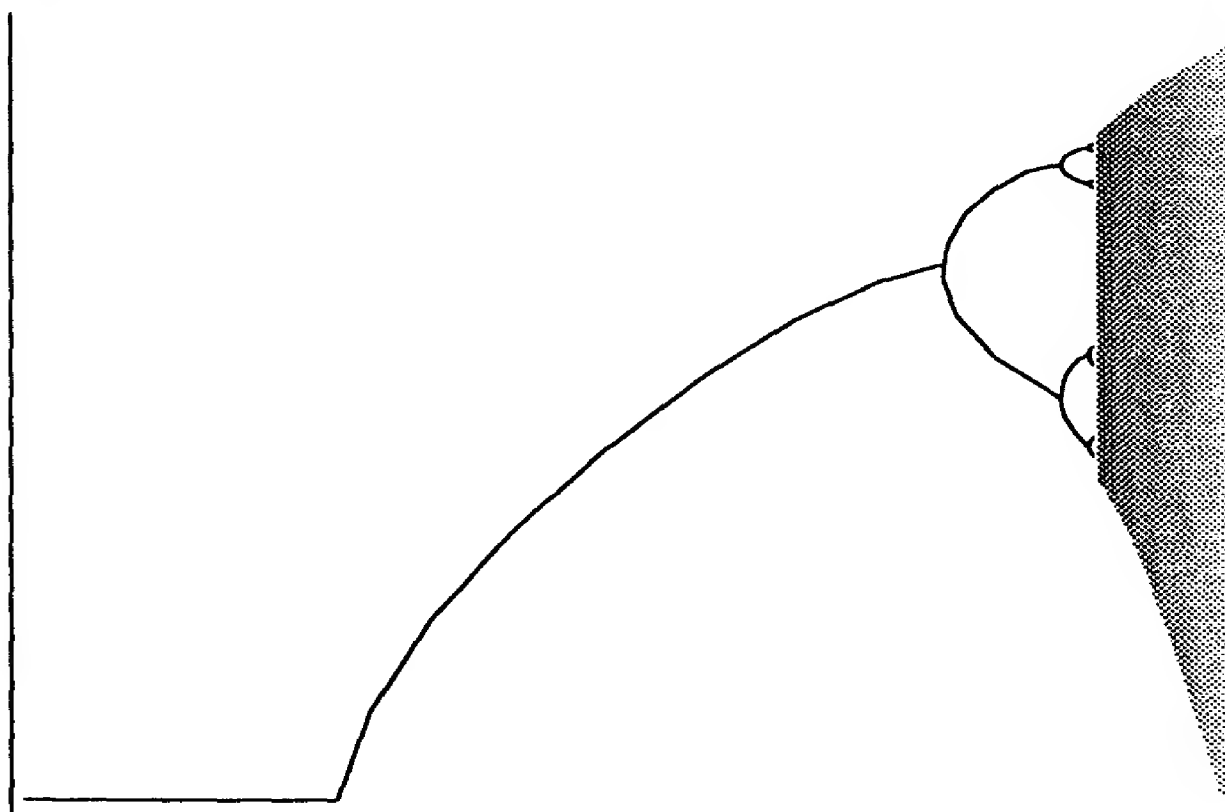
$$x_{t+1} = 1 - k(x_t)^2$$

...limits x to values between -1 and +1 as long as k is between 0 and 2. The map of k -values versus attractors shows the familiar period doubling, and the rate of period doubling turns out to be exactly the same: 4.6692016090+! Sure, you might say, the equations look pretty similar. Then there's this completely different equation in trigonometry:

$$x_{t+1} = r \sin kx_t$$

...which bifurcates similarly, and at exactly the same rate. In fact, any such equation exhibiting this type of behavior will do so on Feigenbaum's Constant's terms! It's as though the numbers forget the equations that generate them and march to a higher drummer. "Feigenbaum's Constant's appearance", writes Ivar Ekeland in *Mathematics and the Unexpected*, "in many different circumstances has been one of the great scientific puzzles of past years. It seems to have some deep physical significance for bifurcation phenomena."

END



Fred's Column #10 by Fred C. Davis, Jr.

[McBruce here. In his letter to me following the last issue of XL (more of that is printed in the letter column), Fred responded to some of my comments on the postscript of **Fred's Column #9**. He suggested I use his comments for a new FC. So, without further ado:]

Dear Bruce:

I think you misunderstood my last comments in **Fred's Column #9**, on the reproductivity of Mensans. You thought I meant that the actual children of Mensans were not qualifying for club membership. What I meant was that the *Mensa Register*, which is published about once every two or three years, and which contains a complete list of all *Mensa* members in the U.S., shows that we have had only one child for every two members. i.e., if our membership was 50,000, there were only 25,000 children of those members.

Of course, this statistic can be skewed by the fact that many Mensans are only in their 20's, and so haven't started raising families yet. There is also the possibility that childless couples are more likely to be able to afford the dues, and once children come, they may have a higher tendency to drop out. This is true of virtually all organizations. We've seen this happen in the Diplomacy hobby, where people sometimes return to the hobby some ten years after their marriages. This has happened within *Mensa*, but to a lesser extent.

What is frightening is to attend a *Mensa* event, as Inge and I did a few months ago, where the subject of children came up, and someone said "Let everyone here who has children raise their

hands," and Inge and I were the *only* ones to do so. These were all reasonably young, healthy, normal people, engaged in upscale jobs, who could well afford to have children. And, of course, Inge and I have only the one child, and I'm an only child myself. At the same time, my 30 years of experience with the Social Security Administration disclosed what I call *Davis's Law*: "The number of children in an American family is inversely proportional to the I.Q. of the chief wage earner." This is not a racist statement. You wouldn't believe how many children the WASP coal miners in West Virginia and Eastern Kentucky have, and our medical records showed the average I.Q. of these miners to be only around 85.

To cite another example, everyone knows that the Germans are, as a whole, a very hard working and intelligent nationality. Yet, the birth rate in Germany has dropped to only 1.5 children per family. As a member of Zero Population Growth, I'm very glad to see this trend developing all over Northwestern Europe, but the scary thing is that if you project these rates over the next 200 years, the German race could become extinct. They are already having problems with the Turks and Eastern Europeans they've had to import to do the dirty work that no one else wants to do. Every third child born these days in my wife's home County is of Turkish descent. This is not to imply that the Turks may not as a race match the IQ's of the Germans, but they are certainly about 100 years behind them in social development.

So, I'm afraid you're wrong when you say that the total number of intelligent people in the world is *not* declining. Intelligent people all over the world are discovering contraception, despite the efforts of the Reagan/Bush Administrations to deny funds to the various Family Planning groups sponsored by the UN and private groups. But, the people of lower intelligence do not use any form of birth control in most Third World countries (and Appalachia is certainly a Third World country), with the resultant flood of unwanted children. The news media are always showing photos of starving babies in these countries, but they never show any publicity for the groups giving out condoms, free vasectomies and other methods of plugging the dike, nor do they seem to be able to make the connection between the fact that most Third World husbands demand sex every day of the year from their wives, and the resultant overpopulation.

It's been found, by the way, that if the

It's Your Call continued

(previous question: page 12)

6. The Mudville nine has runners on first and second base with no outs. Casey has come out of his slump and instead of striking out, he pops up to deep shortstop. You're umpiring the bases and you call an infield fly, but a gust of wind carries the ball out to short left field and the left fielder calls the shortstop off of the pop-up and attempts to make the catch himself. Does the infield fly rule still apply? It's your call.

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women in Third World countries can be taught to read and write, they will adopt birth control measures, even where this may displease their husbands. But, in many parts of the world, women are still kept in a state of illiteracy and virtually legal bondage. But that's another story. So, what we need are not more hysterical pleas for *food* for these areas, but pleas for Family Planning services and pleas for female literacy.

On the subject of Mensa membership, it is true that you only have to "ring the gong" on any one test, and this can include SAT's, IQ tests taken in high school, and/or scores on certain military tests. Indeed, when taking the proctored tests which Mensa administers to potential members, they give two tests on the same day. One is the California Test of Mental Maturity, and one is the Cattell. (The latter is used because Dr. Cattell was an early Mensa member, and allowed its use without royalty payments). You can qualify for membership by passing just one of these tests. However, at least within the U.S., you can only take these Mensa-administered tests once. If you don't pass, you can't try again. However, you may go to a private psychologist and pay to try to pass another test. Mensa has computerized records of everyone who has very taken the tests since about 1966.

The numerical scores on these various tests differ, but they all share in common that the passing grade is a score at the 98th percentile. Thus, Mensa frequently mentions that a passing score can be an I.Q. of 130, if measured on the Wechsler Adult test, which is the most common test administered to adults in North America. However, on the Cattell Test, the passing score is about 144, since a different scoring system is used. Unfortunately, some newspaper stories about Mensa have said that "you have to have an I.Q. of 144" to join, and this has discouraged some people from trying. On the SAT, by the way, the passing score since 1977 has been 1250. (Many people in the Postal hobby have SAT's of 1250 or higher). Before 1977, it was 1300, but the tests were renormed in '77.

The chances are, by the way, that almost everyone who publishes a Dipzine, as well as many good players, could qualify for Mensa membership. I know a few who are eligible but don't wish to spend the \$39/year in dues to join. To play a game that takes 18 months to two years to finish indicates that one is capable of deferring gratification which is a sign of higher intelligence.

I agree that there are some people in Mensa whom we wonder how they ever got there. There does seem to be a type of personality

called the "puzzle solver" who may be good at taking tests, but is a nerd socially. There are also probably a higher percentage of paranoids and lone wolves within Mensa than in the general population. Nevertheless, anyone who attends Mensa meetings regularly will find that the majority of people there are good conversationalists and interesting personalities. It's too bad that the occasional rotten apple gets all the attention. Mensa is one of the few social clubs in the world where nobody can be blackballed for being unlikable.

I believe you'll find that I.Q. tests are constantly being renormed. They, of course, only show one's ability at taking tests, and not how much "horse sense" you may have. But, no suitable replacements are available. They *do* show your likelihood of success in the world, which ought to be the only world that counts. Some ethnics have demanded "culture free" tests for their children. However, use of culture-free tests show that minority children (*except* Asians) score even *lower* on these than on standard tests. Even in homes where there are no books, children do learn *something* on TV. Any pretense that I.Q. scores are not valid for the purpose for which they're designed is only a hiding of one's head in the sand.

[Fred's address is 3210 K Wheaton Way, Ellicott City MD, USA 21063.]

POSTSCRIPT (McBruce): I still have my letter column to type as I type this bit, but it appears that I have a few others to respond to about my misinterpretation of your comment. I apologize for that. I'd be interested in some follow-up columns on the subject of intelligence. Here are a few things I wonder if you (or someone else reading this) has data on:

Is intelligence (as defined by the various intelligence tests) hereditary, developmental, or a mixture of the two? I recall taking an intelligence test when I was a small child, which I recall was a part of my father's post-graduate studies at UBC. But what I want to know is whether the children of intelligent parents, as pre-school children, are more intelligent than the children of parents of lower intelligence. Answering this question would require two things: a correlation study of the I.Q. scores of parents versus the I.Q. scores of their children (easy), and a reliable I.Q. test for pre-school children (more difficult, I suspect). I emphasize pre-school children here because if you believe, as I do, that intelligence is not "in your genes," it logically follows that the first day of school is the most likely fork in the road be-

tween parent-related I.Q. and environment-affected I.Q., so we must test before schooling has a chance to influence the results. If the answer turns out to be that intelligence is largely hereditary, the news that intelligent people are reproducing at far lower rates is alarming.

Can one's I.Q. go up or down, beyond the natural margin of error of the tests? If we can find a significant number of people with I.Q.'s that have jumped, this would score points for the theory that intelligence is not hereditary. It would also provide us with some clues to the conditions necessary for increasing one's intelligence, and, of course, the conditions we want to avoid. In this age of wide differences (even among the developed countries) in education, this data would be a huge educational aid.

Is the average intelligence of the population of the world increasing or decreasing? Scoring I.Q. tests statistically using the bell curve is logical and gives us a lot of information. But when an intelligence test is normed (this means that the testmakers create a scale of raw scores to I.Q.s based on the scores achieved by the first people that take the test) it doesn't tell us how we compare to a fixed standard. Take height, for example. The heights of a sample of 2,000 men on their 25th birthday will produce a normal distribution, averaging about 5'10", with a standard deviation of about two and a half inches. (For those of you not familiar with standard deviations, in a normal distribution, 98% of the population will be within 2SD of the average.

So what I've estimated is that 98% of men will stand between 5'5" and 6'3" on their 25th birthday.) We know that there are some things, diet, posture perhaps, maybe—dare I say it?—race, that would affect heights, but nothing short of always sleeping while suspended by the ankles (even that might not work) is going to turn an average person into an NBA draft pick. But we do have a clear and accurate scale to measure it by, and we know that the average man today is taller than the average man 100 years ago by at least an inch or two. Are we ever going to be able to make a similar statement about intelligence? I doubt it. And there is perhaps an even more important related question to answer: *is the standard deviation of intelligence increasing or decreasing?* I wonder what happens when I.Q. tests are renormed. If there is an I.Q. test which has been used for, say 20 years without any changes, it would be interesting to see if the raw scores that translate to I.Q. 120, I.Q. 100, and I.Q. 80 have changed, and which way they have gone.

You know, it was recently revealed that Winston Churchill worried about the reproductive rates of the British lower classes, before World War One, and proposed that the British race be preserved by forcibly sterilizing or sending to labour camps, all such people. The media, of course, is making a lot out of this. But if intelligence is clearly genetic (at least as much as my height example earlier), then clearly something should be done. But we need to be careful not to be needlessly politically incorrect. We don't want to completely bar anyone from being a parent, we just want to solve the disparity in birth rates between rich and poor. And the way to do that is to preach Zero Population Growth. Schemes such as government support for large families are anti-ZPG and should be phased out, especially when they are motivated, as they are in Quebec, by racial considerations. The government of Quebec has seen fit to give out huge handouts to large families, and is quite shameless about explaining why: to ensure that the French are never a minority there. It's about time the Pope realized that the way to increase Catholic numbers is not by slamming all forms of contraception that work. When Davis's Law doesn't hold anymore, the question of intelligence being genetic or environmental will be less of a concern.

It's Your Call continued

(previous question: page 14)

7. **Baltimore's do-everything player, Oyster Burns, is tiring in the ninth inning of a tie game. He is removed as the pitcher and moves to right field to bring in a lefthanded pitcher to face a lefthanded Altoona slugger. The Baltimore reliever strikes out the slugger for the second out. Altoona has a righthanded hitter coming up with a runner in scoring position, and a refreshed Burns wants to come back in to pitch. May Burns be moved back to the mound? It's your call.**

(Next question is on page 16)

END

FORTY-FOUR
1992

RARE 17-CENTRE NMR DOES NO HARM Was that a "victory-lap" convoy attempt?

FAURE 1986 CC Winter/Spring 1913

GM: Bruce McIntyre, 6636 Dow Ave. #203, Burnaby BC, Canada V5H 3C9, ph. 604/438-9735.

GER: Bob Acheson, 1510-10883 Saskatchewan Dr., Edmonton AB, Canada T6E 4S6

AUS: Pierre Touchette, 74½ Falardeau, Hull PQ, Canada J8X 3E2

ITA: Claude Gautron, 620 rue St. Jean-Baptiste, Winnipeg MB, Canada R2H 0H2

(15 June-4 July) 918 Roderick Ave., Apt. #207, Coquitlam BC, Canada V3K 1R1

FRA: Jacques Belanger, 985½ Mainguy, Ste-Foy PQ, Canada G1V 3S5

Spring 1913:

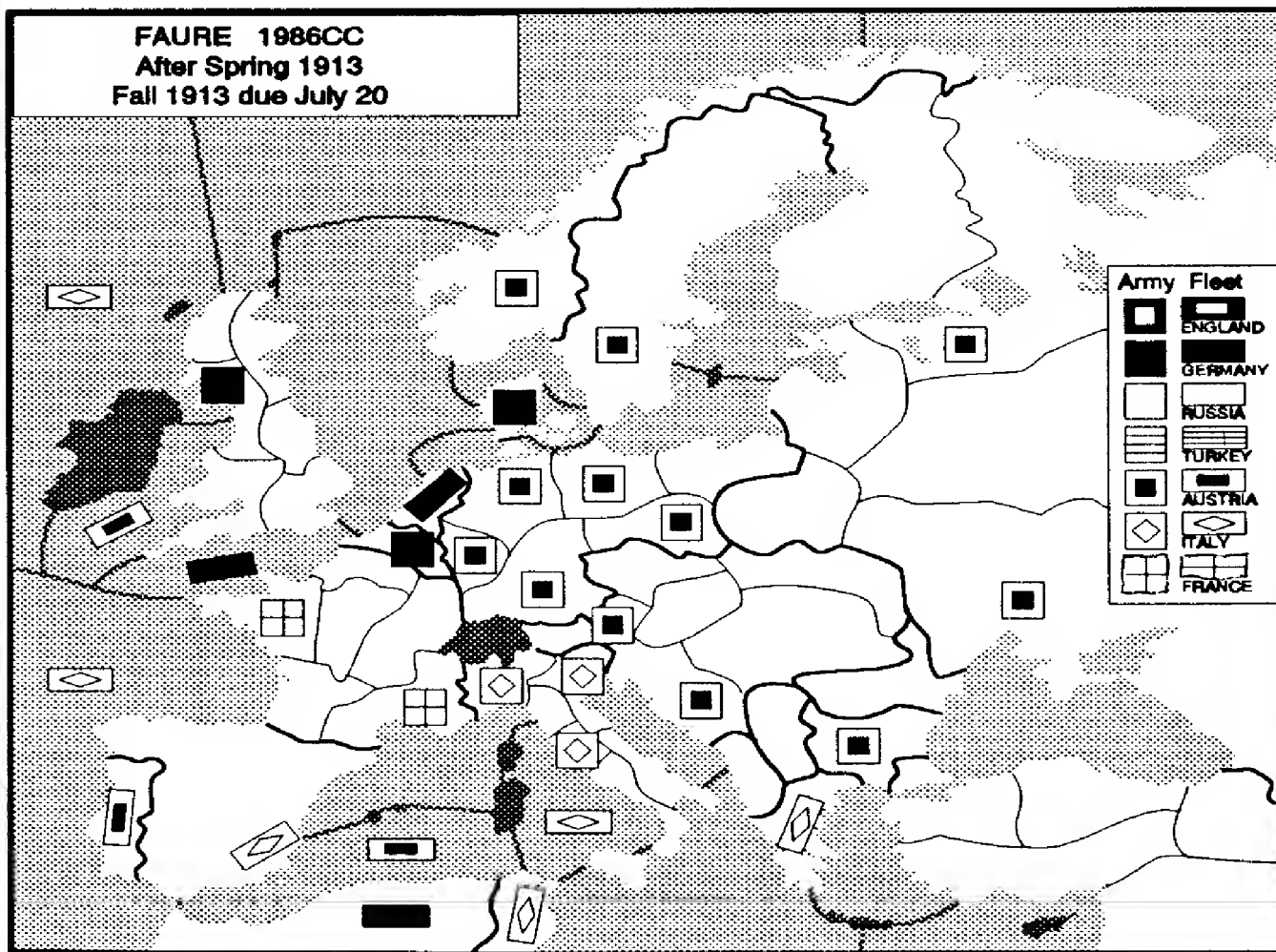
Germany: (A Ruh r Bel.) F **Eng** S F **NAf-MAO**, A **Den-Kie**, F **NAf-MAO**,
A **Bel-Ruh**, A **Lpl H**, F **Hol-Kie**.

Austria: NMR!! These units stand: A **Sil**, A **Tri**, F **WMe**, F **IrS**, A **Mun**,
A **Ruh**, A **Kie**, A **Swe**, A **Ber**, A **StP**, A **Tyr**, A **Bul**, F **Por**,
A **Nwy**.

Italy: (removes F Gre) A **Ven** S A **Ple**, F **TyS** C A **Rom-Lpl**, F **Tun-NAf**,
F **Spa(sc)** S F **MAO**, F **MAO** C A **Rom-Lpl**, A **Ple** S A **Ven**,
F **NAO** S A **Rom-Lpl**, A **Rom-Lpl**.

France: (builds A Par) A **Mar** S **Ita** A **Ple**, A **Bre** S A **Par**, A **Par** S A **Bre**.

FAURE 1986CC
After Spring 1913
Fall 1913 due July 20



BATTLE OF BRITAIN BEGINS ANEW

Maginot line awaits reinforcements

GREGORY 1989 CE Summer/Fall 1907

GM: Bruce McIntyre, 6636 Dow Ave., #203, Burnaby BC, Canada V5H 3C9, ph. 604/438-9735.

GER: Gordon Argyle, #308-330 Michigan St., Victoria BC, Canada V8V 1R5

TUR: Claude Gautron, 620 rue St. Jean-Baptiste, Winnipeg MB, Canada R2H 0H2

(15 June-4 July) 918 Roderick Ave., Apt. #207, Coquitlam BC, Canada V3K 1R1

FRA: Randy Davis, 8771 Shepherds Way, Delta BC, Canada, V4C 4J9

Summer/Fall 1907:

Germany: A **Kie** S A Mun-Ber, A Mun-Ber, F Nth-Edl, A **Ruh** S A Hol-Bel, A Hol-Bel, A **Mos** H, A Lva-War, F Nwy-Nth, A Vle-Tyr, A Tyr-Mun, A **Yor** S F Nth-Edl, F **Nrg** S F Nth-Edl.

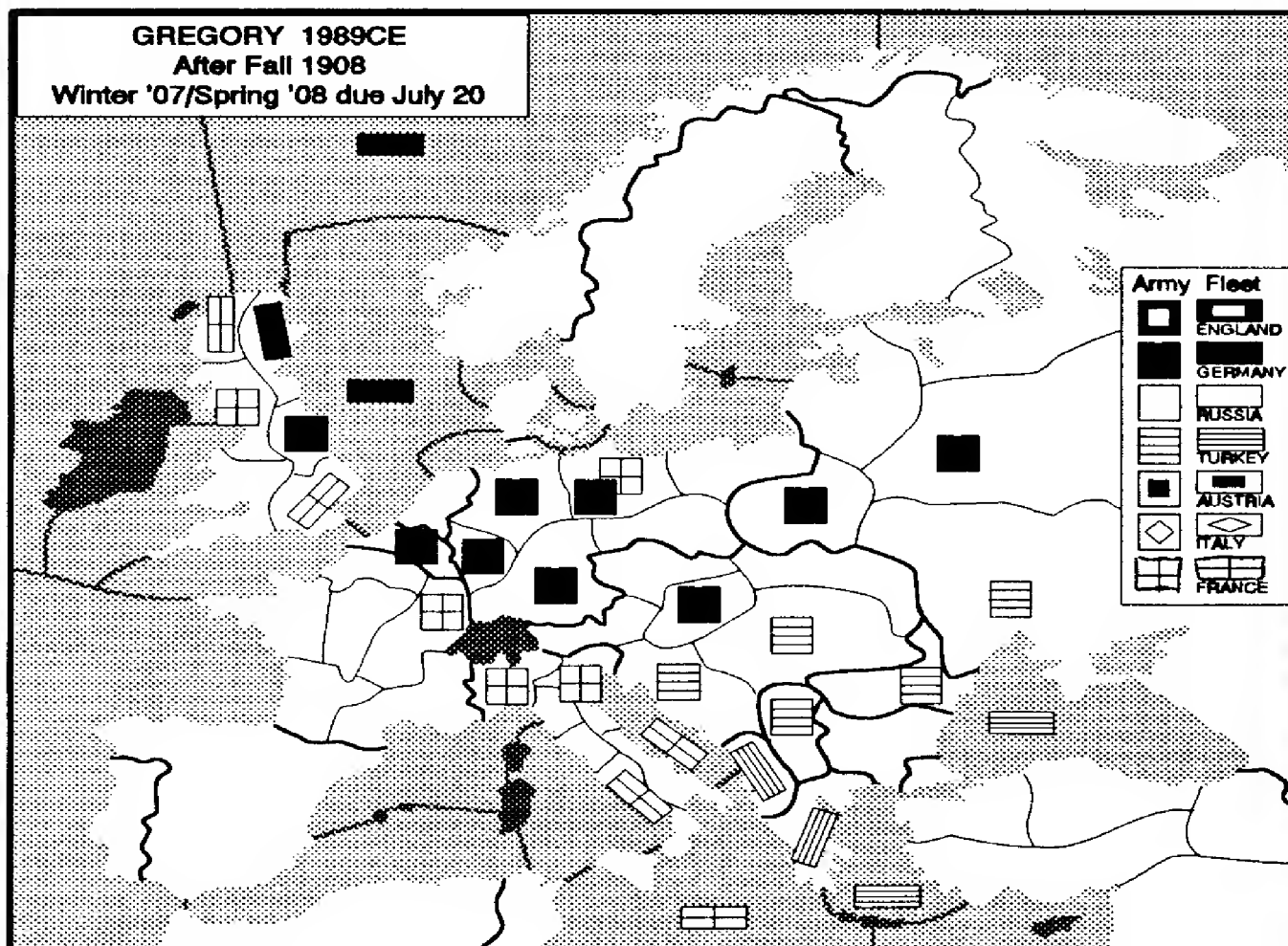
Turkey: F **Aeg** S F Gre-Ion, F **Bla** S A Sev, A Trl \$ Ger A Vle-Tyr, A Bud-Vle, F **Alb** S A Trl, A **Sev** H, F Gre-Ion, A **Bul-Ser**, A Rum-Bud.

France: (A Trl r Ven, A Tyr r Ple) A Bur-Bel, A Ber*-Mun, F **Ion** H, A Ple-Tyr, A Ven-Trl, F **Adr** S F Ion, A **Edl-Lpl**, F **NAO-Cly**, F **Nap** S F Ion, F **Eng-Lon**.

GREGORY 1989CE

After Fall 1908

Winter '07/Spring '08 due July 20



FORTY-FOUR **1992**

FAURE continued from page 18

Centers:

GER: 6: Edi, Lpl, Lon, Bel, Hol, Den.

AUS: 17: HOME (3), Ber, Kie, Mun, Mos, StP, Sev, War, Ank,
Bul, Nwy, Por, Rum, Ser, Swe. Playing two short.

ITA: 8: HOME (3), Con, Smy, Gre, Spa, Tun.

FRA: 3: HOME (3).

PRESS:

Maestro: Along with being pretty grotty when photocopied, the map last time had Germany's dislodged army in Kiel instead of Ruhr, and also didn't include the Austrian army in St. Petersburg. Sorry about that, folks. When I get the laser printing arrangements ironed out I'll add the names of the spaces to the map-nah, only kidding, it'd have to be so small nobody could read it...Please note Claude's address will change for about three weeks during this next move...Standby for Pierre Touchette is Brent McKee, 901 Avenue T. North, Saskatoon SK, S7L 3B9. I think he may find the time to write orders for this one. I should mention that since this was sent out I have been informed that the French army in Paris was missing from the map...



GREGORY continued from page 18

Centers:

GER: Gained Mun, Edi; lost Lon. HOME (3), Edi, StP, War, Mos, Vie, Bel, Den, Hol, Nwy, Swe = 13. Must play one short.

TUR: Gained Tri. HOME (3), Sev, Bud, Tri, Bul, Gre, Rum, Ser = 10. Build one.

FRA: Gained Lon; lost Edi, Mun, Tri. HOME (3), Lon, Lpl, Nap, Rom, Ven, Por, Spa, Tun = 11. Build one--two if A Ber disbanded.

PRESS:

Maestro: Please note Claude Gautron's summer holiday schedule: Coquitlam is a pleasant Vancouver area suburb north-east of Burnaby. This puts us all close together for a month or so. Perhaps Randy, Claude and I could take a ferry to Victoria and complete the game face to face at Gordon's place-nah, only kidding...

Maestro's retreats for next time: FRANCE A Ber r (Pru, Sil, OTB)

DEADLINE for Spring '08 is Noon, PST, Monday, July 20, 1992.

It's Your Call-Answers

Not too bad a turnout for only six weeks: four attempts at the baseball questions, by Robert Lesco (RL), Pete Gaughan (PG), Andy York (AY), Brent McKee (BM), and Rosie Roberts (RR), trying to beat the European record of 5½ set by Malcolm Smith in XL 41. My comments are distinguished from from Brent's by giving myself the artificial initials McB.

1. Bootnose Hofmann is catching and there's a play at the plate. The runner slides around Hofmann's tag, but also misses the plate. Hofmann doesn't notice the runner missed home. When the runner reaches the dugout, the first baseman yells to Hofmann that the runner missed home. Hofmann immediately runs into the dugout and begins tagging everybody in sight, but the runner sneaks out of the end of the dugout before he is tagged and bolts back toward home plate. Hofmann throws the ball to pitcher Coonskin Davis, who is now covering and the runner beats the throw. Is the runner safe and do you score the run, or is he out when the team on the field begins the appeal process while he has already retired to the dugout? It's your call.

BM: Runner is out, and probably was out once the appeal was made. Hofmann didn't have to go into the dugout. ✕

RL: Your next-to-last sentence has me puzzled. It seems to imply that someone, perhaps the pitcher has started the appeal process in which case the runner is out. Hofmann needed only to tag the plate after the runner left the field. I say he's out. ✕

AY: Runner out for abandoning his attempt to touch the base (he headed to the dugout). ✕

RR: The runner is safe, you score the run. ✓

PG: Safe. All Hofmann had to do was stand on home plate. ✓

ANSWER: Safe. Hofmann should have touched the plate while asking the umpire for an appeal. There are two ways to retire a runner who has missed a base—tag the runner or tag the missed base. Hofmann did neither. (Rule 7.10b—Any runner shall be called out, on appeal when with the ball in play, while advancing or returning to a base, he fails to touch each base in order before he or a missed base is tagged.) Going into the dugout does not affect the status of the runner—except after a

dropped third strike (Rule 6.09b). This is not abandoning his effort to run—that only occurs between bases.

McB: I assume if the pitcher makes the tag or manages to catch the ball and appeal before the runner touches the plate, the out is recorded.

SCORING: Should be pretty clear. ✓ is better than ✕.

2. The Beaumont Golden Gators have the bases loaded with two outs with Pug Bennett on third base and Nig Grabowski on first. The runners leave with the pitch and the ball is grounded to second base. The second baseman attempts to tag Grabowski for the third out of the inning, but misses him as Grabowski goes out of the base path. Grabowski is out, but not before the speedy Bennett has crossed the plate. Do you count the run?

RR: Yes. ✕

RL: While it's not a force out it is a play on a forced runner so I do not count the run. ✓

AY: Run doesn't score, Grabowski is considered out on a force play. ✓

PG: No. Runner from first is the third out on a force, no run scores. ✓

BM: Run does not score. ✓

ANSWER: No run scores, this is still a force play. The force is not removed until a following runner is put out or the runner reaches the next base. (Rule 7.08e—Any runner is out when he fails to reach the next base before a fielder tags him or the base, or in this case, he is called out for being out of the baseline, after he has been forced to advance by reason of the batter becoming a runner. Rule 7.12—If such third out is the result of a force play, neither preceding or following runner shall score. Rule 4.09a—Exception: A run is not scored if the runner advances to home base during a play in which the third out is made by any runner being forced out.)

McB: The question was missing a line of text, and the extra line has been added in italics above. You can see that there is little cause for confusion. The quote in the answer of Rule 7.08e is not verbatim, as I'm sure you noticed. I looked it up, and it'd be a lot of typing, but they're right—it's still a force play.

SCORING: I won't quibble in the scoring about whether it was a force or not, if you counted the run you're wrong. Pete takes the first uncontested lead and the rest are batting .500.

3. Honde Hollmig leads off the inning for the Bur-Gra Pirates with a single. Beauty Bancroft then follows him in the lineup with a single to right on a perfectly executed hit-and-run play. Hollmig, however, steps right over second base on his way to third base. The opposing right fielder throws the ball into second base and the shortstop takes the relay while standing on the second base bag. Do you call the force out on Hollmig since he never touched second base, or does the defence have to appeal the play? It's your call.

BM: Hollmig is out, no appeal needed. ✗

PG: Missed base is always an appeal. (Poorly worded—it's also a force out, which could be important if there were preceding runners. Better to ask "Must the defensive team appeal, or can the out be recorded automatically?" Plus—the appeal can take place right away—the only difference between the two possible answers is you have to ask the ump to call him out.) ✓

McB: No comprendo. Isn't that what the question asks? ✓

RL: I would call it an appeal play since the runner now stands on third. ✓

AY: The appeal must be called before he's considered out. ✓

RR: The defense has to appeal. ✓

ANSWER: The defense must appeal—the second baseman taking the throw on second may or may not be an appeal. If the umpire felt he was taking the throw as an unmistakable act of appeal, the umpire could recognize it. (Rule 7.10—An appeal should be clearly intended as an appeal, either by verbal request by the player or an act that unmistakably indicates an appeal to the umpire. A player inadvertently stepping on the base with ball in hand would not constitute an appeal. Rule 7.10b—Any runner shall be called out, on appeal with the ball in play, while advancing or returning to a base, he fails to touch each base in order before he or a missed base is tagged.)

SCORING: All but Brent got this one, some in fewer words than others...

4. Eddie Collins is on third base, Chick Gandil is on first with one out. Shoeless Joe Jackson hits a deep drive to the left center field gap, but the ball is caught. Collins tags and easily scores from third, but Gandil, thinking the ball was going to drop, is caught between second and third

when the catch is made. Gandil scrambles and tries to get back to first base, but the throw just beats him for the third out. Collins has already crossed the plate. Do you count the run or not? It's your call.

BM: Run does not count. ✗

RL: I score the run since Collins scores before the third out is made and said out is not a force play. ✓

AY: The run counts; it isn't considered a force play. ✓

PG: Count the run. ✓

RR: Yes. ✓

ANSWER: The run counts! This is not a force play, it is an appeal play at first base. A force play occurs when the batter becomes a runner (he did not—he was out on the fly ball). According to Rule 4.09b, all runners may score, if possible.

McB: Gimme a break. You tellin' me that a batter who hits a fly ball isn't a runner until the ball is caught? Bull! I agree that the run scores because it is not a force play, but the reason it is not a force play on Gandil is that he started at first, so any force on him would be at second.

SCORING: Everyone but Brent got it right; Pete still leads.

5. Crash Davis drives an inside fastball deep over the left field fence to break a scoreless tie in the thirteenth inning. As Davis rounds first base, he looks up to admire his long shot and twists his ankle badly on the base. Davis falls to the ground in pain and cannot get up to continue his trip around the bases. Can Davis's team insert a pinch runner to complete the round-tripper or do you call him out since he left the base path as he was writhing in pain from the sprained ankle? It's your call.

BM: I'd say neither if it didn't sound so facetious. I'm pretty sure you can't insert a runner while the play is "live," so I don't think a pinch runner could circle the bases on the hitter's homer. If I had to say one way or the other, I'd have to say Davis is out, but I'd prefer to say a pinch runner would have to start on first as if the hit was a single. ✗

RR: He's out. ✗

RL: A substitute runner is allowed to complete the home run. ✓

AY: A pinch-runner can complete the trip home. ✓

PG: Yes, they may pinch run. ✓

ANSWER: Yes, a pinch runner can be in-

served since the ball is dead on the home run. If the ball was still alive, such as on a double, and he was off his base, no substitute would be allowed nor should the umpire call time. If tagged while off his base, Davis would be out. (Rule 3.03—A player or players may be substituted during a game at any time the ball is dead. Rule 5.10—When an accident incapacitates a player or an umpire; if an accident to a runner is such as to prevent him from proceeding to a base to which he was entitled, as on a home run hit out of the playing field, or an award of one or more bases, a substitute runner shall be permitted to complete the play.)

McB: I wonder who gets credit for the homer in such a case. Does the sub get the run scored but not the RBIs? One reason why I'm wondering about this one is that I read somewhere a while ago that (brace yourselves) Babe Ruth, in his final season, had four home runs disallowed **because he was too tired to run the bases!** Apart from imagining the home plate dialogue ("hey, uh, listen there, ump, let's just forget it, okay? I'm too hung over."), one wonders whether theumps just called him out, and if so whether any runners were allowed to score.

SCORING: Pete leads with 5, Andy and Robert have 4, Rosie at 3 is on pace to beat the European record, and Brent is having a bad day with just 1.

6. The Lodi Crushers have the bases loaded and two outs when their cleanup hitter strikes out. Victorville catcher Bear Gile can't hang onto the pitch, however, and all the runners try to move up a base. Gile finds the ball and instead of risking a throw to first base, steps on home plate to force the runner there. Is this a legal play? Can Gile force somebody at home on a strikeout? It's your call.

RL: Technically, the batter forces the runners up so it's a legal out to step on the plate in this situation. ✓

BM: It's a legal play, runner coming home is out on a force play. ✓

AY: Yep, the batter became a runner. Thus, the runner can be forced at home. ✓

RR: Yes. ✓

PG: Yes, with two outs. ✓

ANSWER: Yes, it is a legal putout. This becomes a force play because the batter became a runner because of the dropped third strike, which caused all runners to be

forced with the bases loaded. (See Rules 7.08e and 6.09b.) With less than two outs there would have been no force and the batter would have been out.

SCORING: Everyone got it right.

7. Jamie Don Weeks is on third base with one out in the bottom of the ninth of a tie game. Stud Cantrell hits a long fly ball down the right field line in foul territory. Weeks will certainly score on the sacrifice fly if the ball is caught, but the outfielder never gets a chance to make the play because a fan reaches over the right field railing and catches the ball with a fishnet. It's a clear case of interference, but what do you do with Weeks on third base? Does he score the winning run? It's your call.

BM: Weeks has to stay on third. ✗

RL: The batter is declared out on the interference. Since "Weeks will certainly score" the winning run is allowed to score as the umpire is allowed the freedom to make things right on an interference call. ✓

PG: Batter out, runner scores ("whatever will nullify the interference" or some such phrasing.) ✓

AY: Weeks is allowed to score. ✓

RR: Yes. ✓

ANSWER: This is a judgment call by the umpire. After spectator interference, the umpire may do anything in good judgment to nullify the act. If the ump felt the runner would have scored he may allow him to do so, if not he can hold him at third base. (Rule 3.16—When there is spectator interference with any thrown or batted ball, the ball shall be dead at the moment of interference and the umpire shall impose such penalties as in his opinion will nullify the act of interference.)

McB: And since the question is clear that there is no chance that the outfielder could have made the throw to home in time if he caught the ball, there is no excuse for calling a double play here. What would happen in real life would be an inside the park home run, as the fielder would take one look at the fly ball, realize that Superman couldn't nail the runner at the plate, and run to the dugout.

SCORING: All but Brent correct. One more for Rosie and she has the European record.

8. Bases are loaded with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning of a tie game. You're working a two-man crew so you are stationed behind the pitcher between first

and second. Orville Swan hits a blue darter line drive, which hits you before you can get out of the way. It is uncertain whether the ball would have gone up the middle to score the winning run, or would have been a double-play ball. As it turns out, the ball ricochets into right field after hitting you. Is the ball still in play and does the Iowa Baseball Confederacy win this one, or is this a dead-ball play and will Swan have to hit again? It's your call.

BM: I would suspect that an umpire is just another part of the landscape, so I'd say that the ball is in play. ✕

RR: The ball is still in play. ✕

AY: Ball is in play, deemed unintentional interference. ✕

PG: I don't get it. I believe the ball is dead because it struck the umpire before passing an infielder (pitcher doesn't count), but Swan gets a hit and is safe at first, all runners advance. "Hit again?" Well, it is a dead-ball play, so I have to choose that option. Be prepared for an argument. ✓

RL: It's a dead ball. Swan is entitled to first base, runners advance one base. I think it would be a different story had the ball touched a fielder or gone by a fielder other than the pitcher. ✓

ANSWER: The ball is dead the instant it hits the umpire. The batter is awarded first base and any runner forced to advance because of the batter's award does so. Since bases were loaded this forces in a run—the winning run—game over. (Rule 6.08d—The batter becomes a runner and is entitled to first base without liability to be put out when a fair ball touches an umpire or a runner in fair territory before touching a fielder. If a fair ball touches an umpire after having passed a fielder, other than the pitcher, or having touched a fielder, including the pitcher, the ball is in play.)

McB: The options presented in the question were misleading, since if it is a dead-ball play the Confederacy wins, contrary to what the question implies. So "wrong" is worth a half-point here.

SCORING: Two questions left, Pete has 8, Andy and Rosie have 6½, Robert has 6, Brent has 2½...

9. Red Wilson is catching when the runner on first base breaks for second. Wilson goes into his throwing motion, but hits your mask as you're leaning in to get a close look at the pitch. Wilson's throw

sails into center field and the runner goes on to third. Is this a throwing error on Wilson and are you in play, or should this be a dead ball when he was interfered with by you? What if Wilson had still thrown out the runner despite being interfered with by the umpire? It's your call.

BM: I think it is an error. If the out had been made it would have been an out. (Not sure of reasoning!) ½✓

RR: Everybody goes back to where they were and tries again (neither side should get an advantage if the umpire gets in the way). ½✓

RL: The ball is dead and runners are not allowed to advance. If the interference hadn't hindered the catcher and the out was made at second the out would stand. ✓

PG: The interference cancels the play, everyone returns to their base. (Unless Wilson is out, in which case no interference.) ✓

AY: Dead ball, runner returns to base. If he is thrown out, though, he is out. ✓

ANSWER: This is umpire's interference. Put the runner back to his original base (first) unless Wilson's throw retires him. If the throw results in an out, disregard the interference. (Rule 2.00—Umpire's interference occurs when an umpire hinders, impedes, or prevents a catcher's throw attempting to prevent a stolen base. Rule 5.09b—The ball becomes dead and runners advance one base, or return to their bases, without liability to be put out when...the plate umpire interferes with the catcher's throw; runners may not advance. Note: The interference shall be disregarded if the catcher's throw retires the runner.)

McB: This is like the "goalie moved before ball was kicked" rule for soccer penalty kicks: if the shooter scores anyway, no harm, no foul.

SCORING: Rosie seemed to indicate that the runner would get another chance if thrown out, so loses a half-point. Brent scores a half-point for calling the runner out if he's thrown out. This makes the score Pete 9, Andy 7½, Robert 7, Rosie 7, and Brent 3.. Can Pete complete the perfect round? Let's find out.

10. Gonzalo Marquez takes off running from first base when Coca Gutierrez hits a screaming one-hopper right at the first baseman. Marquez assumes the first baseman will tag first base and then try to complete the double play at second base on him. Marquez decides to foil the plan by

taking to go to second base and then retreating to first base. Marquez outsmarts himself, however, as the first baseman's first play is to force him at second base. As the shortstop takes the throw he steps on second for the force and then throws to first to complete the double play. But the clueless Marquez is sliding back into first base, and gets hit with the ball in the back, allowing Gutierrez to beat the throw. Who's out and who's on? It's your call.

RR: Marquez is out (and I don't know what "on" means in this context). ✕

AY: Gutierrez is called out on the interference. ½✓

PG: Hmm. Normally you can't call interference on a runner unless it's intentional. But there is a rule saying you can't block a "following play" which I think applies here. Double play. ½✓

BM: Interference, both players out. ½✓

RL: Marquez is out on the force play. Gutierrez is safe on first since the runner did not intentionally interfere with the throw. Reggie Jackson, when he was with the Yankees, benefitted from this rule in a World Series game—the replay, however, did appear to show Reggie sticking his hip out a few inches to block the throw as he went into second so the umpire got stung on that one. ✓

ANSWER: Marquez is out at second, Gutierrez is safe at first. Marquez's unintentional interference was not illegal. (Rule 7.09f—If any batter or runner who has just been put out hinders or impedes any following play being made on a runner, such runner will be declared out for the interference of his teammate—but the umpire must judge interference has occurred. If the batter or runner continues to advance—forward or backward to a base—after he has been put out, he shall not by that act alone be considered as confusing, hindering, or impeding the fielders.)

McB: No. I cannot accept this. I've been typing this up on the 20th anniversary of the Watergate break-in with the TV on CNN, but it seems to me the key question here is (this is really awful, folks) "what did Marquez know, and when did he know it?" If he thought the first baseman would step on first to force Gutierrez, then throw to second, why did he slide into first? How could he head back to

first base without seeing Gutierrez still running full out? Wouldn't he be extremely likely to hear or see something that indicated that the first baseman threw the ball to second for the force? It seems quite possible that the interference was deliberate, so (before looking at the answers) I'm awarding a half-point for calling this a double-play.

SCORING: Pete wins \$2 of sub credit with a 9½, Andy finishes second with 8½, Robert finishes third with 8, and Rosie has no trouble breaking Malcolm Smith's European record with a respectable 7. Bringing up the rear with 3½ is Brent. Here are the revised standings:

THE BASEBALL QUESTION STANDINGS AFTER 80/90 QUESTIONS

(Based on a 53.33 question minimum)

Umpire	Answered	Right	Wrong	Pct.
R. LESCO	60	50.0	10.0	.833
P. GAUGHAN	80	65.5	14.5	.819
A. YORK	50	37.8	12.2	.756
B. MCKEE	80	48.9	31.1	.611
E. BROSIUS	(40)	25.7	14.3	.482
D. MCCRUMB	(20)	13.8	6.2	.259
P. MILEWSKI	(20)	11.7	8.3	.219
C. WHITE	(20)	11.1	8.9	.208
R. DAVIS	(20)	9.4	10.6	.176
J. GALT	(20)	7.4	12.6	.139
R. ROBERTS	(10)	7.0	3.0	.131
M. SMITH	(10)	5.5	4.5	.103

Four people have a theoretical shot at the grand prize of \$10, which is decided on the total of your best six scores. However, looking over the scores so far it quickly becomes apparent that this is a contest between Pete Gaughan and Robert Lesco. Brent McKee's best six total 41.1, Andy York's best six total 37.8 (plus whatever he gets next time), Robert's best six add up to 50, and Pete's best six add up to 51.8. (for anyone wondering, the single round record is a 9.6 by Pete in the fourth round, and nearly beaten this time.) Because we're using the top six sets, the best Robert can do would be to replace a 7.9 with a 10, giving him 52.1. This means Pete needs to replace his sixth best, a 7.8, with an 8.1 next time to clinch at least a tie for the pennant. But there's still \$2 of sub credit ready for the winner of the questions next time, so even if you aren't in the overall running you may still win something.

END



FORTY-FOUR
1992

Most of The Post

Well, as I type this I'm late, but I may be able to make up for that in turnaround time when I don't need to paste anything up after getting the thing laser printed. That must be why I'm doing a crazy thing like staying up all Sunday night/Monday morning to type this. It may also have something to do with 27-degree apartment temperatures at 1AM. I watched the U.S. Open conclude today about 1000 miles south and wondered how they could be wearing sweaters while just wearing underwear here seemed like too much.

RAM

Which all seems like a good lead-in to the inevitable comments on my ranting about the L.A. riots:

BRENT McKEE: I have a feeling that *Saskatoon SK* Rodney King is another issue that you and I are not going to agree on. If I read you right (including previous comments) you believe that since King was a previously convicted felon, he must have said or done something which "justified" his being beaten like that. I am not entirely convinced that *anything* justifies that sort of beating. One of the comments by the officers involved was telling. He said that they kept hitting King because he was "resisting" arrest. When pressed the officer said that King's resistance consisted of trying to protect himself from being hit and trying to get up. As to challenging jurors, the PROSECUTION (not the defense) could and did challenge jurors, but there are only a certain number of challenges that are allowed without stating cause and in such a circumstance opposing council can defend the seating of the juror. Those weren't King's lawyers, they were the state's lawyers (big difference) and they stated after the trial that they felt that King, who is not that articulate a person, more so after the beating, would not make a credible witness, given that juries on the whole tend to accept what the police say over the words of people who accuse the police. They obviously felt that they had enough to win with the videotape and expert testimony. Finally, while you say that we are assuming the very worst from the videotape, why must you assume the very best?

The riots and looting are an entirely different matter. They are a reaction not to one incident but to more and more things piling on. Things were building to this explosion. Companies that did employ people closed up or moved. The supermarkets closed and left the residents in the hands of small store owners who overcharge for poor quality merchandise because they are the only game around. When a Korean shop owner shot a black teenager in the back, was charged with manslaughter, and then got off with probation, they saw that the system was against them. The King verdict was the final proof. The rioters were acting like children who, since they haven't gotten the attention they feel that they need while they were being "good" have decided that they will get attention by doing bad things. It frequently works.

BM: So the excuse for the riots, other than the verdict, which we both feel was not fully responsible, was companies leaving the area, high grocery prices, and an incident where a black kid was shot by a Korean who got off with probation only. This is what happened when the children were being good? If they were really being good, companies wouldn't be leaving in droves, and small stores would be happy to compete price-wise without local big-company competition. Sounds to me more like the companies couldn't find good labour, the stores raised prices to cope with the crime rate, and the shooting incident was not nearly the execution you make it out to be. Of course I'm jaded now that I work night shifts in a poor section of Vancouver, and even though in comparison the problems here are far less than what goes on in L.A., it is clear to me that most welfare junkies blame themselves for their circumstances far too seldom.

PETE GAUGHAN: The jury in the *Novato CA* King/LAPD case was racist, and it was also representative of Simi Valley. The judge who allowed the case to be moved there acted unwisely. Prosecution could *never* get a fair and unbiased jury there; even if they used up their allotment of challenges-without-cause (I don't know whether they did) the jury pool would keep producing pro-police, anti-black prospectives.

You open with a paragraph that

would seem to condemn rioting. Fine—although I know why it took place, I too deplore it. But then you go on for a full page, ignorantly trying to claim that maybe the jury was right, maybe the cops were justified, and maybe King's race played no part in the assault.

Bullshit. On all three counts. A white speeder evading arrest would have been sluggish once or twice, handcuffed, then led away—King was beaten by a mob who later found it convenient to claim they thought he was on drugs. (Even if this was true, why did they think so? Their racist comments outside the courtroom tell us.)

The prosecution botched both the charges (lesser included offenses might have gotten guilty verdicts) and the change of venue, but the cops and jury allowed a citizen to be brutalized at least in part because of his race.

And you seem to feel the level of violence was justified. But *no* officer made any move to handcuff a downed and innocent suspect!? By the time there were a dozen cops present and the tape was rolling, it's safe to say that every blow struck was excessive and was only for the enjoyment of the police.

ROBERT LESCO: Well, yes, you may *Brampton ON* regret writing of the LA riots but one of the reasons I've missed *XL* is your ability to see right through the issue and ask provocative questions. For my part, I find it hard to understand how the officers could have been found not guilty. I can not imagine any action that would merit that sort of beating. The penalty

for being rude to a police officer is not a pummeling, to my knowledge. Still, I maintain racism is not necessarily the root of the incident. Smug bullying is a universal characteristic of the police, wherever you go, and any adversarial encounter with a police officer is one where you will come in second place. For example, in Toronto, they have Cherry Beach (commemorated in song a few years back—a local hit perhaps but I'll bet Cal remembers it), where, in relative isolation, annoying types who can't afford lawyers are thrashed and dumped into the freezing water. The point is, everyone is liable for this treatment—equal opportunity if you will.

In casting about for a reason why a not guilty verdict was returned, a couple of theories arose in the local media. One is that the jury may have felt that the officers were on trial for racism, not assault, and the meaning of the verdict was a rejection of the belief that the incident was racially motivated. Another is that although America may not go in for Show Trials they do go in for Show Trial sentences. For example, Jim Bakker was sentenced to 45 years for over-booking a hotel (or was it for being a right-wing Christian?), Leona Helmsley is made to serve time, in spite of questionable health, for fiddling on her taxes. Compare that to other sentences handed down for serious crimes and maybe that's what the jury was looking to prevent. They're only possibilities—based perhaps on the hope that there was some rationale behind the verdict.

One of the "good news" stories that the media so loves which came from the LA riot was that of the black lady whose business was destroyed when fire spread from the Korean liquor outlet next door. She beamed and gushed over how her neighbours were helping her rebuild. The question, what of the Korean liquor store owner, was not asked. To some extent it was answered the next day by an elderly black man's anti-Korean rant which would have been racist but for the fact that only whites are racist (Spike Lee said so). Maybe you saw the editorial cartoon of a burning city and a man with a TV set under one arm with the other

It's Your Call continued

(previous question: page 16)

8. A visiting National League team starts the game with a bang with eight straight hits. Five runs are in and the bases are loaded when the pitcher moves up to hit in the top of the first. The visiting team's manager decides he would like to play for a huge inning and wants to pinch-hit for his pitcher. Do you allow the substitution? It's your call.

(Next question is on page 21)

arm pushing a fist in the air saying "Justice! We want justice!" Two further points: 1) I cannot recall a case of a police officer ever being convicted of an offence committed while on duty, 2) In Illinois a similar case is on trial and "black leaders" are threatening trouble if a certain verdict isn't returned. Is this any way for a trial to be conducted?

ANDY YORK: Your commentary regarding the Rodney King verdict and the riots is very close to mine. However, I've been told that my view is only valid because I'm white—not that the basic argument may be.

My difference can be summed up in one basic point—a prosecutor *must* prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the persons were guilty. Obviously (assuming that the police officers were guilty), the DA screwed up—not the jury. From what I know of the trial (I haven't read a transcript, nor seen more than media sound bites), the DA let the videotape be the whole case.

The DA failed to bring in other witnesses, produce other evidence or, primarily, have King testify about the incident. I've heard that he was worried about how King's background might affect the jury; well, it couldn't have hurt.

Well, enough from me. I've heard that my prejudices cloud my judgment in this case; so, I've been reluctant to express them as fully as I might. You see, not only am I a white male; but, my chosen profession is as a police officer. I guess that these conditions short-circuit my brain and my ability to make determinations of right and wrong.

BM: There was a report from some LAPD higher-up (not Darryl Gates, it was the head of Internal Affairs, I guess) who said that the cops would probably still be fired or at least forced into paperwork-only jobs for the rest of their careers. I think they should lose their jobs, and I am sickened by the decision to move the case to Simi Valley. There obviously was a problem with holding the trial in L.A., but moving to Simi Valley just reversed the slant without changing the angle of inclination. Surely a more neutral venue could have been found.

I regret offending people (Pete writes that he had to read the rest of the zine before he could get into a better frame of mind to con-

tinue writing...) but it seemed to me that the media's coverage, in the first week following the verdict, was disgustingly predictable, as though it had been decided to place the racist label on either the cops or the jury, depending on the verdict. I chose to emphasize opinions that I think many people suppressed as too provocative. In doing so I made it seem that I thought the cops were 100% right, which is not true. I think the prosecution overplayed their hand, and the jury felt that the sentence following a guilty verdict would be harsher than the acts merited. I agree wholeheartedly with Pete that lesser charges might have gotten guilty verdicts (especially with testimony from the victim), and I suspect that future prosecutions of this type will keep this in mind. But I'm appalled at the assertions that the jury had to be racists because of the verdict, that King himself was just an innocent motorist, that the beating would have been different if the cops were black and King were white (is there some scale on this or what? What if the cops were lavender and King were turquoise?). I'm amazed that people feel that a cop can put handcuffs on a person who doesn't want to be cuffed without inflicting pain. I'm amazed that Howard McCurdy (a black MP from the socialist party) can suggest seriously that the white cop in Toronto should have aimed at the black kid's leg when he saw him lunging at him with the knife. I'm amazed that the cartoon Robert described is not an exaggeration. I can't believe that the racist remarks of this Sister Souljah person were downplayed so much by the media that I never heard about them until Bill Clinton pointed them out. There's a lot more to be disgusted about than the beating of King. I just thought I'd be politically incorrect and point some of them out.

Now let's work on that politically incorrect theme a bit:

KEVIN BROWN: The tomahawk chop Jacksonville FL isn't anything new. The Florida State Seminoles' fans and cheerleaders have been doing it for years. What annoys me about the nouveau PC types is that most of these names have been around for years but have only recently become offensive. Why weren't the Native Americans protesting back in 1932 when the Redskins took that name? Did it take 60 years for them to realize it was referring to them? No, it just took 60 years before the political climate was right for them

to take advantage of it.

PETE GAUGHAN: Gee, it's too bad U. of Sask. didn't name the women's teams Husky Bitches...

ROBERT LESCO: One way I can think of to deal with the Tomahawk Chop is for the PA system to play the Anvil Chorus. It would change the impression a bit... Of course, if Americans do it, Torontonians perform a pale imitation so we had protesters outside the Skydome gates when Cleveland was in town. City Council even sent a letter to the team. A journalist pointed out to a protester that Cleveland's baseball team was called the Cleveland spiders (speciesism?) but they changed their name to *honour*, as a *tribute* to, Louis Sockalexis, the first American Indian/Native/... to play in the majors. The learned protesters response? "White-ass racist!"

BRENT McKEE: The black kids who label studious black kids as "acting white" seem to expect to make big money in the NBA or NFL or by doing "music." Either that or to work in the same sort of jobs that the black role models that they see around them do, if they are working. Remember, they are falling for the stereotypes about themselves. Sociologists have stated that one of the worst things about desegregation is that it robbed the black neighbourhoods of positive role models when the professional people in the neighbourhoods who could afford to leave did.

PETE GAUGHAN: In my linguistics studies I was told that black youngsters who don't speak "jive" are accused of having "white pipes."

BM: ...which in turn brings us to an offensive (to some) word that appeared in these pages two issues ago because I didn't know what it meant...

ROSIE ROBERTS: The word "picca-Adendorf GERMANY ninny" was a direct quotation from the original report [on the modernization of *Fantasia* for re-release]; my *Webster's* defines it as meaning "a Negro child." However, the entity in the *Fantasia* sequence was undoubtedly not a Negro child but a piccaninny, i.e. a stereotyped small, cute, black slave. The person who decreed that this sequence be drawn may have been motivated by racism (although in 1940 it was not yet

considered racist to observe that nearly all shoe-blacks were Negroes) but I can't see that it need be offensive for me to describe it. Indeed, I think it is racist to assume (as Garret does) that any statement referring to a specifically non-Caucasoid person need be derogatory. If I am sneering at anybody it is not the non-white races, but the suits at Disney who first put the sequence in and then fell over backwards to take it out. I wonder why they didn't think of recolouring the offending frames to show the shoe-black as an all-American cherub.

BM: Certainly would have been cheaper. Easier, too—maybe they zapped a bar or two of music while editing out that scene, resulting in the disappointing musicality I reported. It occurs to me that with computers, animation is far easier and cheaper than ever before. It would probably be a relatively simple thing to fulfill Walt Disney's dream and create a full feature of fantasy animation over classical music every 2-3 years, with pieces they overlooked the first time, and a modern sound quality. Not only would the music sound better, it wouldn't have to be chopped to fit into the animation: John Williams has shown that a film score can be recorded to fit the action. The one thing against this idea is that it would make the original *Fantasia* look pretty amateurish. Eventually it will become easy enough that someone else will do it if Disney doesn't—perhaps that's why they've released *Fantasia* on cassette.

On to comment on the **Fred's Columns** last issue:

ROSIE ROBERTS: You might like to know that my previous passport expired on February 29th 1990. In theory, I could still be waiting for that date to arrive, but I didn't think I'd better risk it. And it looks to me as though Rossini's fiftieth birthday party will really be in the year 2000—which must be a good time for a big party!

FRED DAVIS: I believe in my "Check *Ellicott City MD* Your Calendar" article I used the Sidereal Day, used to measure how long it takes the Earth to point back to the same spot in the sky, rather than the Civil Day, how long it takes from one high noon to the next. Since Earth is revolving around the sun, it takes a few minutes longer each day for it to get back to the

same reference point in the sky. Your figure of 365 days 5 hours and 48 minutes is correct for the Civil Day period. I made the mistake of copying this out of Durant's *History of Civilization* without looking it up in the *World Almanac*.

BM: I'm kicking myself for not figuring that out—should have been obvious. Sidereal is pronounced suh-DARE-ree-uhl, for those wondering, as I was. I guess that now that we know the Earth takes 365.2422 Civil Days to go around the sun but rotates 365.2463 times in doing so, we should be able to figure out the rotation speed, or something, using calculus, but it's far too late for me to try something like that. Tying this into the Chaos series I've been writing, the French astronomer Michel Henon discovered an odd kind of attractor based on the eccentric orbits of stars in a cluster around a galactic centre. Such an orbit is unusual because the gravitation comes from not a point (as is basically the case in planetary orbits), but a three dimensional disk. These orbits are periodic but don't always end a revolution where they started. This produces a three dimensional orbit that over time covers enough points in the 3-D space to resemble a doughnut. Henon simplified this picture by cutting one end of the doughnut with a theoretical plane and then recording where the orbit intersected the plane in successive orbits. This produced a string of points much like a connect-the-dots puzzle, which proved to be self similar at smaller scales when magnified. I'll try to be more coherent when I write the article.

ANDY YORK: Regarding Fred's second column, and your commentary, I think you missed the point of his statement about Mensans. What he was (seemed to be) talking about was that as women (child-bearers) become more educated and involved in the world, the birth rate dropped. Thus, Mensans are only being replaced (from their ranks) at 50%—across the board, there is only one "new/potential" Mensan being born from Mensans for every two current Mensans.

OK, this may seem confusing. From my experience, most Mensan families only have one child. Also, there are many single Mensans (no children) or married couples with-

out any children. Overall, there is only one child from Mensan families for every two Mensans in the world. I hope this makes better sense.

The other side of the coin is that Mensa, as a whole, is mostly designed for adults. There are some attempts at creating "Young Mensan" programs or "gifted/talented groups." However, they are only a small part of the national Mensan membership. My group, San Antonio (one of the larger ones), has less than 1% of the membership under 18 years old (actually, of our 400+, about 10 are children).

PETE GAUGHAN: Fred's anti-poor bias, I hope, is not shared by many. Lower population sounds great, but *not* to protect us Mensans from the barbarians.

BM: What I am trying to argue in my postscript this time (a response to Fred's response to my response to the **Fred's Column** referred to here) is that Mensa is in no danger of declining memberships due to a low birth rate among its members, unless there is evidence that intelligent people have intelligent parents. I don't think this is so, but I'm sure interested in views from Mensans on the subject.

ROSIE ROBERTS: The unwanted baby girls who were exposed by the ancient Greeks and Romans were not necessarily doomed to death—they were often collected by poor couples who were short of children and who wanted an extra worker. Perhaps this was the origin of

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(previous question: page 26)

9. **Pittsburgh's Sure Shot Dunlap** decides to pinch-hit Dandelion Fritz Pfeffer in place of Blimp Hayes in the bottom of the ninth of a tied game, but he forgets to tell the umpire about his substitution. Pfeffer steps in to the batter's box and drills the first pitch over the left field fence for the apparent game-winning homer. The Boston manager appeals to you that the pinch hitter batted out of order since he was never entered into the game. Is Pfeffer out or does this one belong to the Alleghenies? It's your call.

(Next question is on page 36)

the fate "worse than death."

BM: That was a reference to one of last issue's **Fred's Columns** as well, I think, although it could also describe the Harris execution...

PETE GAUGHAN: I think refusal to admit guilt should *not* be sufficient cause to deny parole. Also, by now you've probably been corrected and told that Harris was only taken out of the gas chamber alive *once*. Blame that on a judge who refuses to apply the death penalty in *any* situation.

BM: Yes, I think that he only got that far once, but didn't it go back and forth four times in the last hour? That was what I heard. Similarly, in the Milgaard case I don't understand either why you need to admit guilt to be considered eligible for parole, but that was certainly the impression I got from the media. More on the Milgaard case now (clarifications and comments mostly) from our Saskatoon reporter:

BRENT McKEE: Gail Miller's body was found in a back alley in Saskatoon. The local police were under a lot of pressure for a number of reasons. The crime was particularly brutal for the time, and occurred seven years after the murder of another nurse, which had never been solved. Add on to that the other sexual assaults in the city at the time, and the fact that the crime went unsolved for a number of weeks and the pressure was on. Milgaard was a teenaged hippy drifter, and his friends weren't able (or willing) to provide him with an alibi, which hurt his assertion of innocence. The fact that he escaped prison on a couple of occasions also didn't make him seem a victim. The fact that what the courts were dealing with was purely circumstantial evidence didn't seem to have much impact at the time. In fact, it seemed as though the only one who believed Milgaard was his mother. Later, a Christian group of investigators, called Centurion Ministries, got involved and dug up the "evidence" about the serial rapist, named Fisher, who supposedly confessed to some of his prison mates that he had cut the throat of a woman. Gail Miller's throat was cut.

The Supreme Court's task is not to judge guilt or innocence. Rather it is basically to judge the law, in a criminal case to determine if the procedure is cor-

rect rather than if the verdict is correct or valid. In the Milgaard case they had even less authority. The Justice Minister asked the court to review the case and make recommendations to her concerning whether a new trial was warranted. They did exactly that. The subsequent decision not to hold a new trial was not based on the concept that a new trial in which the accused would go free anyway was redundant. It was based on the fact that it had been twenty three years since the murder had occurred; some witnesses were dead while others (notably a couple of Milgaard's supporters) were unclear about what they recalled. As to compensation, well, I don't think he "deserves" it. Of course I am not fully convinced that he is innocent.

BM: Nor am I. Certainly, if he is guilty, he may not necessarily remember committing the act if he did it while under the influence of drugs. This may be the reason behind the adamant claim that he's innocent, of course. But from your account, the "new evidence," this creep Fisher's claim, is just as circumstantial as you claim the original case against Milgaard was. (Circumstantial or not, the Supreme Court did decide that the original trial was faultless and Milgaard's defense was competent.) Anyhow, the Saskatchewan justice minister was at least partially swayed by the "redundant retrial" argument even if the Supreme Court wasn't; I heard him say so in his press conference.

A few things from a letter which arrived late for last issue now. (How many of these will there be in XL 45?)

KEVIN BROWN: I think you have Kirby Puckett mixed up with Lonnie Smith in your description of WS game 7. Puckett plays CF for the Twins, so I doubt he'd be running bases for the Braves.

JFK. Easily Oliver Stone's worst film. I thought the movie was over-long and far too one-sided. Plus Costner was terrible. His on-again/off-again Southern accent was downright annoying. Did you notice that Costner's tie changed colours three times during his final summation? And this film won an Oscar for editing! As for the actual assassination, I've never met anyone that believed Oswald acted alone. My personal favorite theory is that Kennedy was an unwitting pawn in the plot to kill Oswald. Would

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Kennedy have been a better president than those that followed? Well, he certainly would have been better than LBJ, whom I consider the worst president of this half-century, but I doubt he would have been remembered as anything special. Truthfully, JFK wasn't all that great of a president and if he had lived he'd be just another name in the history books, like Chester Arthur.

BM: I missed the tie changing colours—as I mentioned, I took a much needed-piss just before the ending, which probably cut down on the theatres drink sales that night, as everyone who was lined up for the late show saw me run through the lobby and there was much smirking when I returned to get back for the final few minutes. Yeah, I got Puckett and Smith mixed up. When I reread that a couple of weeks after I mailed it I couldn't figure out what the hell I was talking about...

Loose ends...

DAVID HOOD: I must take exception *Hickory NC* to those identifying Japan as one likely to start a new "war." There is absolutely no such thing as an economic war. The current situation is hardly "Japan vs US" as we often hear from people on both the right and left. An economic transaction is by its very nature a voluntary act—Japan only sells cars and so forth here because North Americans have purchased them. If I want to do business with a Japanese person rather than one from Detroit, who has the right to tell me I can't, with trade legislation and so forth. The bottom line is that if a Japanese product is better than an American one, it helps both me and *our* economy to buy it. Inefficiency stems from basing economic decisions on things other than economics.

And this "fair trade" stuff is phony. If the Japanese government wants to send its tax money here in the form of subsidizing to make prices lower, I say bring it on.

Economics is not a zero-sum game. If certain Japanese, or Taiwanese, or Canadians, or whoever, get rich, more power to them. This economic envy doesn't sit too well with me, and it doesn't help anyone, particularly consumers.

BM: But surely laissez-faire capitalism must have its limits. The U.S./Japan car trade imbalance is not something anyone should get

worked up over, since the Japanese are assembling better cars at similar costs that sell at lower prices. But what about the many industries that cannot compete without protectionism? An American clothing company cannot hope to compete if the market is flooded with jeans made in a sweatshop in Southeast Asia where the labour cost is a fraction of what it is in North America. I don't know what the U.S. hopes to gain from free trade with Mexico. And we in Canada are getting tired of the hardball being played in the name of the Canada/U.S. free trade agreement. It's been a net minus so far for Canadian businesses. If the only thing that matters is consumer cost, we may as well relocate all businesses to where the labour is the cheapest. Which means a huge exodus that will clearly result in an even worse trade imbalance.

ROSIE ROBERTS: Asimov would not have agreed with you that science let him down. He once said that if it were not for the scientific and industrial revolution that brought his family to the USA he would have been living as a serf labourer somewhere in Eastern Europe—with a life expectancy of around thirty.

BM: What brought the Asimovs to the U.S. in 1923 was the offer of sponsorship from his mother's American half-brother. Still, the decision to emigrate was a difficult one to take and Asimov describes it as "the only wild decision my father ever made" in a touching essay on his father in his third book of "Asimov's greatest hits," *Opus 300*. I suppose the relative economic conditions of Petrovichy and New York were the major factor in deciding to emigrate.

PETE GAUGHAN: If there is ever a power surge at your house, you'll hate the person who suggested leaving the machine on. Or yourself, if you left a disk or datapak in the drive...

BM: Well, I do have a second-rate surge protector, and I am usually pretty well backed-up. The benefits of leaving the machine on are quite addictive. Even with the old C64 I had about five minutes of loading before I could begin to type. The 386 I have takes about 3-minutes to boot, load Windows, get to the word processor, and load a text file that I want to edit. Leaving the machine on, I can leave four or five unfinished pieces on instant recall (OK, maybe 3 seconds maximum). So far no trouble, and even if we have trouble twice a year it would be well worth it.

FRED DAVIS: Re DipCon daily newsletters. This is to advise you that Larry Peery has done this on at least two occasions. A daily "Diplomacy World" was produced by Peery for the 1989 DipCon in San Diego, and, I think, the 1986 DipCon in Fredericksburg, VA. Also, I believe Larry produced some sort of flyer at the Toronto DipCon in 1991. I also believe some sort of flyer was issued at World DipCon I in Birmingham, England, in 1988. So, it can be done, and has been done.

BRENT McKEE: I am convinced that you've only scratched the surface of the idea's potential. Using a laptop computer (ideally suited for this sort of thing) and a modem, you could send reports at the end of the Con to publishers and others unable to attend, provided that they were willing to pay costs. If publishers at the Con were willing to pay costs, they could even file reports or articles to their own zine during the Con.

BM: I do recall hearing about the daily "DW"s in San Diego, now that my memory is jogged. The proposal I made was based on the desktop publishing capabilities of today's home computers. It would be easy as pie for a DipCon official to have something quite professional put together which could actually be sold, both as a optional add-on to the entry fee, and as a mailer to those who couldn't make it, helping to counter the expenses of putting on the show. With pre-typing of articles, pre-arrangement of layout, printing pre-arrangements, and a few willing assistants to write and type up reports on tournament and con happenings, the total workload over the course of the whole weekend could come to as little as 8-12 man hours. I'm not too hot on the modem part, nor the laptop part. I wouldn't want to take my desktop machine across the country to a Con, but surely any DipCon will be close enough to somebody with a good 386SX or Mac that they can make available for a weekend.

ROBERT LESCO: Robert Morley, the British actor (Egads—in the time it's taken me to write he is now the late Robert Morley) once said that it's important to have something that you've wanted to try but never got around to so that you can say "I would have been good at that." Likewise, had the NHL playoffs been killed NY Ranger fans and probably Vancouver fans would have always been

able to say that this was the year they would have won the Stanley Cup, if only... Now they have nothing. Was Mario's injury a "sting" or is he really Superman? I wonder.

BM: I fully expected the Bruins to beat the Penguins in the semi-final, for the simple reason that the officials seemed to favour the Penguins after Mario went down against the Rangers, apparently out for the season, and when he came back so soon I figured the refs would get revenge for being made to look bad. Graves (the Ranger who administered the fatal blow) should have been suspended before the next game was played—somebody should tell Brian O'Neill that both video and hearing testimony can be transmitted over the long-distance telephone lines, and even if that is unacceptable, it's not hard to get from Montreal to Pittsburgh overnight if you really want to. I suppose Lidster of Vancouver should have been suspended for his similar chop on the Edmonton forward in that series, but on that scale you'd have to give Oilers defenceman Manson a sentence rivalling that of his namesake in California for his blatant stickwork on any Canuck forward under 6 feet who happened to skate nearby. As for the Canucks, we have considerably more than nothing, we have a hungry team that is young and talented, and has shown that no deficit is too much, having won a seven game series after being down 3-1. They'll be back. As I type this it is uncertain who the Nordiques have traded Eric Lindros to, but the packages I've heard about are so fantastic that Eric would have to be as good as Gretzky's best years to make him worth what's being offered. But if the Rangers have him they might finally have enough to win—or Eric might cause the team to break apart in jealousy over the Kid and his Money.

ROM

Yes, you're probably wondering where the response to the PDORA article was. I always throw out a few questions in the ROM section of the letter column, and that was one of them, so all that's still to come. But let's get the question responses in the order I asked them:

1. What will be the major issue that decides the upcoming [shit, I ought to know better than to use a stupid word like that] U.S. presidential election? What will be the issue that should have been important but wasn't? Assuming the candidates will be Bush and

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Clinton, and that Perot will get on the ballot everywhere, what will the outcome be?

FRED DAVIS: The major issue which will probably decide the election will be which side produces the best (and most) TV commercials, showing their smiling candidates doing silly things and making 30-second sound bites. Plus, how many people are excited by the "Bimbo of the Month Factor," wherein it seems more important who a candidate may have slept with X number of years ago than what he believes in. By the "Bimbo" standards, neither Franklin D. Roosevelt nor John F. Kennedy could have been elected, had the media disclosed their extramarital peccadillos during election campaigns.

To me, the two major issues *ought* to be *Abortion* and the *Environment*. Virtually all Democrats are Pro-Choice, while even among Republicans surveys show there is a 60-40 split in favour of legalized abortion. However, the upper reaches of the Republican Party are almost entirely Anti-Abortion, so the Party Platform is going to contain a Right-to-Life plank. (Of course, they won't provide any funding to help these little girls after they've had their babies. Republicans seem to lose interest in the child as soon as it's born.) A lot will depend on how women perceive the candidates. Will they vote for a man who may have been unfaithful to his wife if he favours abortion, or will they stick with good old George, who apparently never even thought of making out with another woman, even though he's shafting them left-to-right with his Supreme Court appointments and vetoes of bill after bill providing for family planning and child care, or lifting the "gag" order on what doctors and nurses may say to women in Federally funded clinics.

I thought the women's vote would defeat Bush in 1988. As I said at the time, Dukakis may be a jerk, but at least he won't appoint judges to the Supreme Court who are being selected solely on the basis of their willingness to overrule *Roe vs. Wade*. You can bet there never would have been a Clarence Thomas-Anita Hill hearing had Dukakis been elected. When Thurgood Marshall retired, a qualified black man would have been appointed in his place; not a third-

rater who apparently was the only black judge in the whole system who opposed *Roe vs. Wade*. Since there are more women than men voters in the U.S., the Democrats ought to appeal to them if they're smart.

The Environmental issue is one which ought to be widely discussed, but seems to be swept under the rug by both sides. It's not just the survival of the Spotted Owl in Washington State. The air pollution is reaching crisis proportions in many big cities. However, about 60% of that pollution is coming from automobiles, and since the auto is God in modern America, no one wants to speak out in favour of mass transit or electric cars, except in California, which is always 20 years ahead of the rest of the country in most things.

Bush has already watered down the World Environmental Treaty being signed in Rio next week. It seems that nothing matters except that business should make a profit, even over the dead bodies of "underclass" people. Calvin Coolidge said, "The business of America is business," and it seems as if George Bush hasn't changed his mind from that 65-year old statement.

I'd also like to see the issue of smoking in the workplace raised, but I know it won't. OSHA has prepared a memo to ban smoking in offices and factories as a direct threat to workers' health, but I'm sure the current Administration will kill it. Smoking has been banned in all Social security offices, including restrooms. When you enter SSA Hqs. in Baltimore, you see the few smokers left standing around outside on their coffee breaks, freezing in winter and sweltering in summer, corroding their lungs, but about 85% of all SSA employees have given up the habit.

The outcome: Bush will win the popular vote, but Perot may win enough Electoral Votes that the election will be thrown into the House of Reps. Then anything can happen in the way of wheeling and dealing. The Diplomacy game to end all Diplomacy games!

BM: Does the House have to elect a president with a 50% majority if the Electoral College doesn't? Seems to me if it's just "whoever gets the most votes," Perot hasn't a chance, since the House of Reps is made up of party

politicians.

BRENT MCKEE: Big issue: The US economy, that being a broad category including, but not limited to; employment, budget deficits, international trade, regulations and a list too numerous to mention. Issues that should be big but aren't: Education (an "education" president who has done less than nothing to improve schools), the Environment (an "environmental" president who won't sign treaties to protect the environment because they will cost jobs) and Health Care. Issue that may be big but shouldn't be: Honesty, Family Values and the "media assault" on those values. Likely outcome: to soon to choose now. There is supposed to be a book called *Thirteen Keys to the Presidency* that I haven't been able to find, which claims if a candidate has a majority of these 13 keys (concerning personality and incumbency, foreign affairs, domestic affairs, the economy) he will win. Near as I can remember them, Bush only has a couple of those keys right now, a successful war and incumbency. Perot clicks over a lot of keys because he is perceived (rightly or wrongly) as being better than the other two on the economy and has greater charisma. Clinton doesn't take any keys. If things continue as they are today, and assuming the election is won outright, look for Perot to win. If it goes to the House of Representatives look for a Clinton win. On a theoretical long-shot, if things go really weirdly, Dan Quayle could be acting President for up to two years! Why do I suspect that a high proportion of Diplomacy types would support Perot?

ROSIE ROBERTS: I expect that the major deciding issue will be the fact that Bush is president already. I don't think he's much good, but that's the way it usually goes. Actually I tend not to pay very much attention to the US election—it seems such a circus. Adultery seems to be the issue that interests the media most, which is probably as it should be: the people want a president who isn't going to lie to them, and a man who doesn't lie to his wife could have an advantage. A female candidate might have an advantage too; people seem more reluctant to slander women.

The environment ought to be an issue

but doesn't seem to be; presumably there's an "anti-environment" industrial lobby persuading people that environmental protection will put them out of work and cost them money. I predicted some time ago that the Democrat candidate's running-mate would be black and/or female. I haven't seen much evidence of it coming true, but if it did, it might prove relevant.

ANDY YORK: The major issue will be a debate over social programs vs. non social programs. Basically, it will be a fight over those who want to take from programs like Defense, NASA and the ilk and sow it into ADC, unemployment and other support programs. The non-issue that should be one is the federal deficit and how the Congress should approach it. So many people are ready to reduce the deficit; as long as it doesn't affect them or their area. Without a national/world view, this problem won't be addressed. The outcome of the election? Well, it will be thrown into the House of Representatives for a decision. And, it is quite likely that they *could* choose none of the above (Bush/Clinton/Perot) for the Presidency. As *U.S. News and World Report* mentioned, maybe Bill Russell could be the next president.

BM: Tell me you meant Bill Bradley, please... If the Reps can vote for anyone at all, I suspect that puts Mario Cuomo right back in the thick of things again. Maybe his head was right...why run if you don't have to?

DAVID HOOD: Major issue will be the economy—and Bush will win the election. Clinton has, I think, essentially no chance—particularly given that Perot will siphon his votes more than those of Bush, as the "change" candidate. The economy is already beginning to turn around—and it will be even better by November.

ROBERT LESCO: Depending on how the recovery proceeds, the economy (and the President's role therein) could be a key issue. Or, perhaps "law and order." The important issue not covered—as always, the deficit.

When he is an official candidate, Perot will be subject to the same scrutiny Bush and Clinton are and he won't do so well. Will he ban moustaches and beards in Congress as he did

in his firm?

PETE GAUGHAN: I think the biggest issue will be budget cuts. Bush would slash entitlements, Clinton would slash defense, and Perot would slash both these *and* the federal bureaucracy. Personally I prefer Perot's approach but I don't trust the weasel. They'll likely finish Bush-Clinton-Perot in both electoral votes and popular vote.

BM: At this point it seems to be like picking a pennant race in February. Obviously Bush is the favorite and Perot, despite his lead in current polls, is the dark horse, but there is simply too much to come. Perot's campaign will be a huge factor—if he drops down in the polls he is unlikely to recover and it will become a two-way race. The current Republican strategy of sending the Vice President after the Moral Majority types is obviously calculated to take votes from Perot more than Clinton. If the race suddenly becomes a two-man race, this strategy may blow up in the G.O.P.'s faces. If Perot stays in to the end, that must favour Clinton or some other Democrat that the House of Representatives may decide to elect, but this too presupposes that the House of Representatives will be controlled by the Democratic Party. This is likely but not certain with the cheque-bouncing scandal hitting harder on the Democrats than the Republicans. At this point I'd take Bush if I had to bet on it, but I wouldn't feel comfortable with anything less than 2-1 odds. But I am warming to Clinton, cooling to Perot (if he could say something without relating it to some 60's business deal it would help), and neutral to Bush while respecting that he has the best guns behind him in terms of campaign dirtiness. It's hard to get a knockdown on George on anything other than his record. The other guys have tons of juicy material to be exposed. Mr. Prez may be bland as all hell, but he'll put up a surprising fight.

2. Which side do you support in the Zine Register vs PDORA feud?

ANDY YORK: I decline to comment (OK?)

BM: Fair enough. David Hood sent two letters, both answering the question. Two answers from one person will offset a "no comment."

DAVID HOOD (first letter): The **Zine Register** should not have been defunded completely, even though it was a little too mean spirited last

issue. Garret's attacks were out of line, however. It's one thing to complain about the result—it's another to impeach the system and impugn the committee's integrity. He should apologize for that so we can all move on.

PETE GAUGHAN: A pox on both their houses, but Garret should've gotten \$50 to \$100.

DAVID HOOD (second letter): I printed the PDORA allocations [in **Diplomacy World**] because that was hobby news—I didn't see it as a feud-like attack on Garret. How could I have publicized the Auction and then not publish the results?

Of course, I did know that the defunding was explosive, but didn't feel that justified deleting it. Now, my view: the allocations were the business of the Committee Members. If one doesn't like the results, one can cease to support the Auction. Everyone is entitled to their opinions, and should act upon them.

That said, I would have voted Garret some money, albeit nothing approaching the money asked for. \$400 would just be too much. Even though ZR #19 was a bit too negative in tone, it wasn't so bad that it deserved the cold shoulder. The ZR is one of the few projects that we really need as a hobby. Let's work to make the ZR better, not blow it out of the water. What would replace it?

ROBERT LESCO: I'm with you here. I

It's Your Call continued

(previous question: page 20)

10. The Norfolk Tars trail by one run with one runner on and Yogi Berra batting. As usual in these questions, there are two outs in the bottom of the ninth. Berra hits a pop-up behind first base. The first baseman goes back to make the play, but gets tangled up with a sportswriter who is on the field taking photographs. The ball falls harmlessly to the ground in foul territory. Is this interference? Is it a foul ball or is Berry out, or do you give the slugger another chance to win the game for the Tars? For the ninetieth and final time, it's your call.

(Deadline: **Aug 7.**)

think Garret should have received something. To better answer the question, we need to know what previous ZR pubbers received. It creates a possible conflict of interest for publishers to decide whether a ZR merits PDORA funds or not. Still, I think you said it best.

If I think about it, I could get steamed over Garret's treatment. Is this the level of maturity in this hobby?

BRENT McKEE: Since I have not seen anything that Doug Kent has put forward (one of the "disadvantages" of not being a publisher) I am inclined to think that the allocation of PDORA funds was not particularly fair to Garret and *The Zine Register*. I agree, some of Garret's comments in ZR 19 were harsh. So were some of Phil Reynolds's comments. So were some of Steve Nicewarmer's. On the other hand I don't think that is a valid reason for not giving him funding. In truth, I think the fact that he tried to find a wider audience by putting an advertisement in a forum outside of the wargaming "mainstream" is one of the more positive moves that could be made. I would have found that a better reason for funding than Garret's choice to use recycled paper and his laser printer. Garret deserves something, and it doesn't help Doug Kent's position that he is co-publisher (with Jack McHugh) of a competing zine review (*Your Zine of Zines*) which was savaged by Garret and Phil. Frankly this whole thing leaves a bad taste in my mouth.

Just received the latest *Zine Register*. One thing I have noticed is that Garret can be quite outspoken. That's good for *Upstart*, but if there is one project that should be kept free of controversial views it is the *Zine Register*. Having seen what Garret said about *Northern Flame*, I think it might be advisable to keep our heads down and our mouths shut. Things could get nasty.

FRED DAVIS: I'd hate to think that the PDORA vs. the *Zine Register* thing is going to turn into an all-out feud. I do believe that Schenck was wrong in asking for \$400, but Kent was also wrong in blowing this up so much. He could have sent Schenck, say, \$40, and let sleeping dogs lie. I do wonder whether there would have been a different response

from PDORA if the last ZR had not come down so harshly on some zines?

I believe that both ZR and PDORA are worthy hobby projects, and we ought to encourage any such projects, especially when they do not duplicate already existing projects. I would like to see the next issue of ZR go a bit easier on publishers. After all, we are all amateurs. It's only when a zine is grossly overdue that readers should be warned away from them. And, I believe the PDORA should try to give something in the future to all *useful* projects. The PDORA is certainly a lot fairer in its distribution of funds than that Other Group in New York City which grants funds only to those who fawn and grovel to them and sign a Covenant.

BM: There does seem to be a wide hobby consensus that ZR should have gotten something. I received letters from PDORA chairman Doug Kent and PDORA Committee Member Bob Acheson:

DOUG KENT: I wanted to point out a few inaccuracies in your DipGab column (XL #43). To begin with, I did not send out the circular requesting items for donation that also mentioned ZR. As it turns out, neither did John Caruso. It was, in fact, John Fisher Jr. Fisher was the appointed successor to John Caruso, but when Fisher dropped out of the hobby all-of-a-sudden, John asked me to take over PDORA instead. John F. sent the circular out, on his own, without checking with John C. first. I didn't know that it was John F. who sent it out until recently, when I found a copy of it in *California Acres* (John Fisher's folded zine).

Second, there is not now, nor has there ever been, an organized "ZR revolt" or "Get Garret" movement that I've been a part of. Sounds too much like something out of the *JFK* movie! After reading XL #41 I sent you copies of the reviews/comments that had appeared in my zines *Maniac's Paradise* and *Your Zine of Zines*. If memory serves, I sent you nothing else. Distributing reviews that were published in my own zines is hardly "throwing mud where and when they can," as one conspiracy-theorizing hobby member claims. Trust me, if I wanted to *really* throw some mud at Garret, I have

plenty of ammunition saved up. I just don't see a reason to do so...hopefully Garret will never give me one.

At any rate, my purpose in sending them to you, as you probably figured out, was to show you that not everyone treats Garret's opinions as facts, and that one person's opinion shouldn't diminish your enthusiasm for publishing. If you recall, in your XL #41 editorial you listed "forget Diplomacy altogether" as one of your possible responses, and I wanted to make sure you knew there were people like me who hoped you'd stick around for a while. There is a major difference between criticizing ZR and a "Get Garret" movement. I think certain people are a bit too paranoid. There was nothing conspiratorial about sending you those reviews, it was just easier to photocopy the reviews (reviews which Garret had already seen) rather than retype all my opinions. If Garret wants to criticize PDORA, fine, but his childish name-calling should really stop.

A nit-pick, but to be accurate, Garret's comments on PDORA in his ZR mailing were closer to 800 words, not 500. But who cares, your point about exponential growth is still valid.

Perhaps the PDORA committee should have disregarded the \$150 for advertising, but John Caruso did not break down any of the requests when he sent them on to the committee. I plan to supply breakdowns to the committee while I'm PDORA head, so this won't happen again.

By your remarks about why \$170 was carried forward, and about whether or not the PDORA chairman makes the final decisions, I can tell you don't fully understand the way PDORA works. (In preface, let me correct you by mentioning that I did not take over PDORA until after John C. had sent the requests to the committee and collected the auction money.) The PDORA Chairman gives each funding request a rating based on what the service is. Any service that does not produce income from its service gets a Positive rating. The BNC, MNC, and Orphan Service are three examples of that. Although the MNC and BNC do charge sub fees for their zines, they also must trade with a number of zines in order to get the gamestart/finish info,

and at any rate they do not charge for issuing numbers, which is their primary function. Neutral is given to those services which *do* have income such as ZR, Pontevedria, and the NAVB. Negative ratings are given to polls, awards, and any request that is not deemed a hobby service (for example, if you requested money for XL you'd get a negative rating). The committee then votes on each request. Positive requests need only two yes votes out of five to pass. Neutral requests need three, and negative requests require four yes votes. The PDORA Chairman does *not* get a vote. Each Committee member, along with his vote, also includes the amount of money they think each service deserves, regardless of whether they voted YES or NO. Contrary to an opinion I've seen elsewhere, it's not uncommon for someone to vote NO but still list an amount close to what was requested. If a request gets enough yes votes to pass, the chairman computes how much money the service gets by throwing out the high and low votes and averaging the other three. The \$170 is left over because no one knows how much we'll be distributing until the votes are tabulated! Sometimes there is less than \$50, sometimes more than \$150...it depends. By the way, I didn't list the Committee Members on the circular published in **Diplomacy World** because I forgot. It was my first PDORA circular and I was still getting the hang of things.

These are the procedures as they've been set up for some time, and as they were detailed to me by John Caruso. They were set up this way specifically so that "hobby politics" wouldn't distort the distribution of funds, and to make sure that the chairman and committee members did not have a financial stake in where the money goes. For the 1991 auction, all I did was collect the votes and tabulate the results. The five committee members do not necessarily "consult" each other—the procedure is set out so that the five opinions can be molded into a final outcome. In addition, the committee is purposely geographically separated, in order to remove any geographic slanting of the results. The chairman and committee members are the only hobby members that cannot

request funding. The chairman pays all the expenses of running the auction, including creating and distributing the auction booklet.

As for agreeing to disagree, there isn't much more that can be done. Garret says he will not ever request funding again, so he won't get anything this year. Last year's decision cannot be overturned, because to do so would totally invalidate the reason for having a committee. PDORA might as well approve all requests 100% if decisions aren't going to stand.

So, my suggestion? If people want to financially support the **Zine Register**, they should send Garret money—there's no way for PDORA to support him if he won't ask for funding. Whether people do or don't, I hope they'll continue to support PDORA. The auction does a lot of good, and creates a fun bidding atmosphere in the process. Of course, if the hobby doesn't think PDORA is worthwhile anymore, or needed, just say the word—I'd be glad to save the \$100+ I expect to lose being chairman this year. However, I think there's still a lot of life left in PDORA, and a lot more for it to do before it gets tossed by the wayside.

BM: Copies of the following letter have been sent to Garret, Doug, and Cal White, this appeared also in **Foolhardy** #2 (see the postscript to the article on **ZR** #20 which appears elsewhere to find out what that is), in a somewhat different form, since Bob is playing and GMing in so many games simultaneously he sometimes forgets to complete a sentence, which forces editors to figure out where the periods would best be placed, and whether or not the numbering of sentences is necessary...

BOB ACHESON: I'm one of the name-Edmonton AB less, faceless committee members. I also am one of the ones who gave Garret's request the buzzer. It wasn't a hard decision, or one that I spent a lot of time on. I was not contacted by any other committee member or did I contact anyone else. I gave the thumbs down because I didn't like much of the **Zine Register's** content. If winning the Runestone Poll is that important to Garret—send out mass mailings—don't use the **Zine Register** as a tool to make disparaging comments about other zines, while telling us how great **Upstart** is.

Actually, I don't have a problem with it—just don't expect me to vote for funding. If Garret submits a request for funding this year my thumbs down will be even quicker. While I thought that most of the content [in **ZR** #20] was better (mainly due to additional reviewers, even B. Eddy's orgasm!) using a zine that's acclaimed to promote the hobby to bash Cal White (who questioned the heavy emphasis on timeliness and coined the term Turbo Phreak (recoined it)) repeatedly and then take runs at Brad Wilson—if you want to print that, then save it for **Upstart** or even **Vertigo**—Brad reprints letters.

My negative vote was one—I guess that a majority of the committee thought the same way. I understand that Garret is looking for a replacement to take over **Zine Register**. I'm of the opinion that it's time to wind it down. As a final comment, I did like Garret's idea of advertising in **The General**. (Unfortunately, I don't like advertising for the **Zine Register**!) If selective ads were placed in **The General** listing the top five finishers in the Runestone Poll that could be funded by PDORA—something to be discussed at DipCon perhaps...

BM: Well, that certainly clears a lot up. One of two things may have happened to exclude the **Zine Register** from funding. If three out of five committee members voted no, that would kill any chance of Garret receiving funds. The other, unlikely possibility would be if there were three or more yes votes but somehow four out of the same five voted to give Garret zero. This would result in an average of zero after throwing out the high and the low amounts.

I think PDORA is a worthwhile hobby service. Doug's letter shows me that the small glitches in this year's proceedings will be corrected for next year. It seems clear that whether the hobby agrees or not with the decision to completely turn down Garret's request, the decision was reached fairly, in the usual manner, without hobby politics involved. I hope that by the next issue of the **Zine Register** we will have some idea what will happen when Garret steps down, so that committee members will have some idea what to expect if the new **ZR** publisher decides to apply for funding, which I expect he probably will.

3. Which side did you support in the NHL strike? (While we're on this topic, let me ask

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a related question to those of you who watch the NHL playoffs on CBC. Is Don Cherry overexposed?)

BRENT McKEE: I supported the players. The NHL owners have long had a reputation for treating their employees as ignorant idiots who should give the owners sweetheart deals. They have finally run into a union boss who isn't willing to go along. As to Don Cherry, gee do you really think so. I mean all he does is his few minutes on *Hockey Night In Canada*, a couple of shows on The Sports Network, maybe a radio program, and commercials for Sports Select here in Saskatchewan. And all he ever says is that today's players are too soft, women shouldn't get as much air time to talk about hockey as he does, and foreign players aren't nearly as good as North Americans...Of course he is overexposed and should be run out of all his posts sooner rather than later.

BM: Oh, I don't think he should be zapped from them all. The Sports Action pitches he does in B.C. (these are sports lottery games) are ignorable and obviously staged as a parody of himself. The radio clip (about five minutes a night on sports talk shows) is sometimes funny but I haven't heard it much recently. His TSN show is a yawner most of the time. But *Coach's Corner* is fine until the playoffs start and he has to do the show 3 or 4 times as often.

ANDY YORK: NHL strike, was there one? and what is the NHL? (Just kidding, I know what the NHL is; but I could care less about it.) And who the heck is Don Cherry?

BM: He's kind of the John Madden of hockey, except that he doesn't do colour commentary. He appears on most *Hockey Night In Canada* broadcasts (wearing flamboyant suits, tie pins, and three inch collars) in pre-opening credits rinkside pep talks, and in about a five minute slot called *Coach's Corner* in which CBC hack Ron MacLean plays straight man, deftly throwing in a bad pun here or there. His clear preferences are for old-time rough 'n tumble hockey, and he regularly spouts off opinions like fighting is O.K. but stickwork isn't, Canadian players are the only players who can really play, banning fights will increase stick violence, etc. His claim to NHL fame is in taking the 1979 Boston Bruins to the Stanley Cup semi-finals before losing the deciding game to the Canadiens on a "too many men

on the ice" call which sparked the Canadiens comeback. During the Gulf War he used his five minutes to slam all the peaceniks, and didn't say a word about hockey. It doesn't seem like much, but it is probably the most popular weekly five minutes in Canadian television. But, it gets tiresome when the playoffs start and he's on every second night for two months.

DAVID HOOD: Was there an NHL strike? (Now, just kidding—even our papers carried it.)

PETE GAUGHAN: The players.

ROBERT LESCO: I was with the owners. If the NHL were expanding now, cities like Winnipeg would never be considered in spite of all the obvious fan excitement. I always enjoy Don Cherry but on occasion he has seemed short of things to say. My feeling is he may be trying to be fired or at least he's testing how outrageous he is allowed to be. His anti-European-born players rants sometimes makes me uncomfortable.

BM: The whole city went into apoplexy when Cherry showed a clip of Canucks Russian star Pavel Bure retaliating to a cross-check with a weak slash, Cherry commenting, "deres dat Bure, da little weasel." When you consider that he had more *Coach's Corner* segments in the eight-week playoffs than the six-month regular season, it seems that Cherry might be better a little less often. Maybe twice a week maximum in the playoffs instead of 3-4 times might make him more interesting more often.

QUESTIONS FOR NEXT TIME: This first one is divided into three parts directed at Canadians, Americans, and Others (a term I use for convenience and not to offend). The subject is Canada's Senate Reform logjam, and I'll start with a bit of background before I get to the actual questions. Canada's Senate is, at present unequal (larger provinces have more representation), ineffective (in theory the Senators can block legislation, but in practice they can only delay passage of contentious Bills), and unelected (appointed by the Prime Minister). The current Constitutional talks, aimed at coming up with a way to meet Quebec's demands so that all ten provinces can be signatories to the Constitution, have bogged down on Senate Reform. The logjam is being caused by five of the six smallest provinces, who demand a "Triple E" Senate (Equal, Effective, Elected). The federal government

and the larger provinces are resisting Triple E. It appears that all agree that Senators should be elected, but the other two points are the focal point of the talks. The word Equitable (meaning representation by population) is offered as a substitute for Equal, and the feds have sent clear message that the more Equal the new Senate is, the less power they will agree to give to it. Here's the questions.

1(a). If you live in Canada, what plan do you support (ignore for the moment that Quebec may commence separation proceedings while we fight over this)? Do you think it is possible that your preferred plan would be acceptable?

1(b). If you live in the U.S.A., give us Canadians some advice based on your system of government, keeping in mind that we ordinary Canadians barely know the rudiments. It's obvious that the Elected, and Equal parts of Triple E is modelled after the U.S. Senate, but how Effective (in terms of ability to block legislation) is the U.S. Senate? Are there hard feelings in the U.S. over California getting no more Senators than Wyoming? Who among the Senate, House, and the President can veto bills, and what do the others need to do to override vetoes? Does government work better as a three-way system then it would as a two-way system? (Canada's political leader, the Prime Minister, has always been simply the leader of the party that forms the government, elected only in his own constituency.) Critics of Triple E in Canada say it would give the smaller provinces too much power, and would potentially bog down legislation, or force a majority government to act as a minority, bringing in compromise Bills, if they didn't control the Senate. Is this a common complaint with the American setup?

1(c). If you live outside of the U.S. or

Canada, please feel free to tell me about any facets of the governmental system of your country that are relevant to the topic.

2. If the current "rivalry" in the hobby (more or less centred on the ZR/PDORA dispute) does heat up into a second Great Feud, is there any way the hobby can deal with this effectively? Can it be stopped once it begins, and if not, can the beginning be averted? How can neutral parties (I think I'm neutral so far, but then I thought that last time too...) stay on good terms with both sides?

3. I recently received a survey in the mail which, because I was about to mail something else and postage was included, I filled out and returned. The subject was doctor-patient sexual misconduct. Some of the questions, as I remember them, were provocative. We all, I'm sure, agree that the vast majority of doctors are never a threat in this area. But what steps should we take to ensure that the guilty doctors are exposed without inconvenience to other physicians? Is it O.K. for a doctor to ask a patient for a date while off duty? If not, what about small towns where the doctor is the only one of his profession? Should a doctor report the claims of a victim-patient that a fellow doctor is guilty of sexual misconduct, if the patient does not want the report to be made?

This would be a good time for a requested plug of Mark Lew's zine, **benzene**, which is looking for new readers to discuss the presidential race. Always a great read, and pretty much without games, **benzene** is 80¢ in the U.S., 90¢ in Canada, and \$1.45 elsewhere. Check it out: Mark's address is 5390 Broadway #2, Oakland CA, USA 94618.

END

